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CIS Council of Foreign Ministers Meets in Moscow

LD1603234794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1928 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow, 16 March—A draft convention guaranteeing the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities will be completed "in the very shortest time." An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by a high-ranking official in the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry that an understanding to this effect was reached at a sitting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers, which ended here today. It was attended by the heads of the Foreign Ministries of Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, and by ambassadors and deputy ministers from seven other Commonwealth countries.

According to the Russian diplomat, the leaders of the foreign policy departments considered "a huge agenda." The sittings of the Council passed off "on the whole in a constructive spirit," and the discussions enabled a step forward to be taken in the discussion of important issues, although final decisions on many of them have yet to be taken.

Thus, experts have been instructed to put the finishing touches to a draft declaration on observance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of the borders of the Commonwealth states.

The high-ranking diplomat described a group of problems connected with the sharing out of non-military marine vessels of the former USSR with the states of the CIS and the Baltic area as "a difficult question" that "will be looked at again." Those attending the sitting confined themselves to deciding to set up a group of experts.

Cognizance was taken of a paper from the Council of Border Troop Commanders about the progress of the talks between the Russian Federation, Central Asian, and Transcaucasian states on cooperation on guarding the borders with third countries. Those attending the forum decided to uphold the idea of creating within the CIS a permanent consultative commission for peacekeeping activities.

The sitting also discussed matters connected with NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. Permanent consultations between the Foreign Ministries on the participation of the CIS states in implementing it will now come into being. The prospects for CIS-CSCE cooperation were examined.

A proposal put forward by Kazakhstan to hold a special session of the UN General Assembly on problems of the post-confrontation period "was, on the whole, supported". It was decided, however, to continue the discussion.

Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine were instructed to prepare the text of a joint message from the CIS countries to the peoples of the Commonwealth and the world community in connection with the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The timing of the next sitting of the Foreign Ministers' Council was determined. It will take place in June on the eve of the next Council of Heads of State.

A joint sitting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers and the Council of Defense Ministers of the states participating in the Treaty on Collective Security was held in the afternoon. It considered a package of documents regulating the activities of the Collective Security Council and its secretariat, which were set up in December last year. Further work on these documents is required before they are submitted at the next sitting of the Council of Heads of State. They must be adopted in order to set in motion the mechanism that has been created.

Another question that the Foreign and Defense Ministers examined concerned a protocol to the Treaty on Collective Security. The point is that two countries, Russia and Azerbaijan, have proposed amendments to the document. In the course of discussion, the ministers concluded that it was not a good idea to modify the actual text of the treaty, but that the changes that life prompted could be expressed in a declaration. A decision to draw up such a declaration was adopted.

Consideration was given to a number of possible measures to boost the effectiveness of the functioning of the collective peacekeeping forces in the Republic of Tajikistan and to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Azerbaijan Delegation Attends

NC1603214594 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The CIS Council of Foreign Ministers and Council of Defense Ministers have convened in Moscow. Meanwhile, a delegation from Azerbaijan has arrived in that capital. Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov and Defense Minister Mamedrafi Mamedov are among the members of the republic's delegation.

The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center told a Baku Radio correspondent that the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers is expected to deliberate on 11 matters related to the convention on the rights of national minorities, the agreement on collective security, territorial integrity of the CIS countries, mutual relations between the CIS and the CSCE, consultations among the CIS countries on the realization of the program for cooperation for peace, and other issues.

The republic's delegation intends to try to have the proposals Azerbaijan submitted during the CIS heads of state summit on collective security in Ashgabat on 24

December included in the agreement on collective security. Azerbaijan is convinced that the agreement's provisions must not only apply to foreign aggression against the CIS countries, but they must also apply to internal attacks.

The delegation plans to submit another document to the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers for approval by the CIS leaders. That is a draft declaration of respect for CIS members' sovereignty and territorial integrity and respect for the inviolability of their borders. The declaration notes that the principle of noninterference in each other's internal affairs must be the essence of friendly relations and cooperation among the CIS countries.

Kozyrev on 'New Quality' of CIS

LD1603145494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] A regular session of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow on Wednesday [16 March] reached unanimity on key foreign policy matters related both to the Commonwealth and international affairs. The CIS is actually assuming a new quality, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated after the session.

He said the ministers discussed the protection of the external borders of the CIS. According to Kozyrev, the discussion took place in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere which left Russia satisfied.

In his opinion the adoption of a decision on the formation of a consultative commission for the peaceful settlement of differences within the CIS is an important step taking the Commonwealth forward.

The convention on the protection of ethnic minorities was a more complicated matter, he said. "On the one hand, some countries are not sending their experts to working groups. As a result, their ministers find themselves in a difficult situation because are not in the know. On the other, this is an indication of the lack of readiness of several countries to discuss this complex and delicate matter," Kozyrev said.

He said there are problems in this respect with Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

In Kozyrev's opinion, one should not attach political meaning to the fact that some countries were represented by ambassadors and other officials, instead of ministers at the Wednesday session. "After all anyone can fall ill or have important domestic matters to resolve. The absence of several ministers does not mean that they were not interested in the meeting," Kozyrev said.

Only Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia were represented at the meeting by foreign ministers. Ukraine was represented by its ambassador in Moscow Vladimir Krzhanitskiy, Belarus by Deputy Foreign Minister Petr Belyayev, Kyrgyzstan by the Acting Foreign Minister Alibek Jekshenkulov, Armenia by Deputy Foreign Minister Armen Kirakosian, Moldova by Deputy Foreign Minister Ion Cebuk, Turkmenistan by Vice Premier Boris Shikhmuradov, Uzbekistan by the ambassador in Russia Yusuf Abdullayev.

The meeting was also attended by Executive CIS Secretary Ivan Korotchenya and the Chief of Staff for Coordinating Military Cooperation Colonel-General Victor Samsonov.

After the session the foreign ministers were joined by the defence ministers of the CIS countries that signed the collective security treaty.

They are expected to make a joint statement after the meeting.

Presidents Must Resolve Black Sea Fleet Issues

LD1603130194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] "Military commanders of any rank are not empowered to resolve the Black Sea Fleet issue," Admiral Eduard Baltin, the fleet commander, told Interfax. He emphasized that the matter was up to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents to decide.

Baltin said so in response to the last week's remarks made by Vladimir Beskorovainiy, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, who said that "Ukraine no longer raises the possibility of transferring Black Sea Fleet ships to Russia as payment for debts accrued from oil and gas supplies." Beskorovainiy believed that the document signed in Massandra was a protocol of intent, not an agreement. "The fleet has to be split half and half before the end of 1995," Beskorovainiy emphasized.

Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, commented on Beskorovainiy's remarks by saying that the Massandra document "might be a protocol of intent, but it was signed by the presidents."

"If these remarks had been made by Kravchuk, this would make all the difference," Kasatonov said.

As he put it, "a political decision was made which recognized the interests of the world community as well as Russia. The world views Russia as a reliable and strong partner who is acting for peace, calm and stabilization."

The presidents of Ukraine and Russia Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin signed an agreement in Mukholatka, near Yalta, whereby the Black Sea Fleet was to be the core of the Russian and Ukrainian navies. Until the two navies are formed the fleet was to be jointly commanded by the two presidents.

The presidents signed another agreement in Moscow on June 17, 1993, on dividing the fleet half and half.

Under their latest agreement signed in Massandra, southern Crimea, on September 3, 1993 Ukraine was to transfer its part of the Black Sea Fleet to Russia as

payment for supplies of Russian fuel. The specifics of the compensation mechanism and the use of naval bases in the Crimea was to be agreed on later through negotiations. The procedure of evaluating the fleet's assets was to be negotiated within a month, but the talks became deadlocked.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Mar

LD1703091594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0503 GMT 17 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 17 (ITAR-TASS)—The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper reports today that a regular meeting of the foreign ministers' council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) held in Moscow on Wednesday agreed the most important foreign policy issues on the life of the Commonwealth and its participation in international affairs.

Arguing with advocates of a state of economic emergency in Russia, Professor Aleksandr Livshits, head of the Russian president's expert group, writes in the TRUD newspaper that 'the country needs, among other things, an appropriate law to impose a state of economic emergency in the country.

'The law would lay down under what conditions the state of emergency is imposed, for what period, what measures are being enacted and who takes the decision.' Livshits pointed out the absence of such a law at present.

Therefore, he claims, 'the imposition of a state of economic emergency in our country is out of the question.' Noting that the Russian parliament should decide what laws should be drafted and adopted, the expert stressed the priority need for creating a legal basis for reforms.

Livshits expressed opinion that 'talks about emergency measures are groundless and even undesirable, since they can promote destabilization in society.' Describing the present situation in the Russian economy as 'difficult', the expert stressed that 'the government should keep the situation under control, implement the present programs thoughtfully, including work on structural reorganization.

'On the other hand, a return to administrative mechanisms of government and a freeze on prices and wages would lead the country to a quick collapse'.

Commenting on the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan, Nikolay Medvedev, head of the president's office division on work with territories, says in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that the treaty is really a qualitatively new basid document recording both the delimitation of subjects of authority as well as mutual delegation of powers between the federation and its member republic.

He expressed opinion that the treaty with Tatarstan 'will be both a stabilising factor and work done for the country's future.' 'We have shown an ability to find the way out of really deadlocked situations and what's the main thing—a desire to come to agreement,' Medvedev stressed.

In the opinion of the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper, ' the countryside should not be fenced off with a bureaucratic wall from the market. At the same time, peasants should not be herded, in 'the bright past'.

The newspaper expresses regret in a report from a meeting of the government commission on urgent matters that the favorable period for the state's timely aid to the countryside has passed.

'The state in the person of the finance ministry has turned to be unable to return debts in time,' ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes, noting that the state now owes 1,300 billion rubles to the countryside 'for already consumed produce.'

Writing in the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper, Margarita Maximova, senior researcher of the institute of world economics and international relations, claims that only economically strong and politically stable Russia can become a driving force for the integration of former Soviet republics.

Examining versions for cooperation within the Commonwealth, the scholar draws the conclusion that discrepancy between the interests of Russia and other CIS countries is no barrier to the rapprochement.

'World experience shows that any interstate alliance was and is based, above all, on the balance on interests of its participants,' Maximova stresses.

Reporting the publication of the book 'The Last Soviet Government', the PRAVDA newspaper writes that 'the last the ministers of the Soviet Union are convinced that they stepped down unvanquished and unhumiliated'.

The newspaper features opinions of nine former ministers Nikolay Ryzhkov, Leonid Abalkin, Vadim Bakatin and others on events in Russia.

Under the headline 'Interview with a woman called Soviet Jeanne d'Arc', PRAVDA outlines views of former Soviet legislator Sazhi Umalatova on the situaion in Russia. 'The people will learn to protect their rights later of sooner,' she stresses.

Expressing joy over the recent release of inmates for the Lefortovo and Matrosskaya Tishina prisons as a result of the amnesty proclaimed by parliament, Umalatova stated that 'Hysteria concerning unpredictable consequences to be caused by the amnesty of opposition politicians is not accidental.'

'The same 'scenario writers' stir up trouble, trying to split society and to provoke opposition for drastic actions in order to bring tanks back,' she claims.

Under the title 'In the Footsteps of Terminator', the SOVETYSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper describes particulars of a massacre at a Russian border post on Tanfilev Island (Russian Far East), including a commentary by Colonel-General Nikolayev, commander-in-chief of Russian Border troops, on this deplorable event.

Grachev Holds Talks With U.S. Defense Secretary

LD1703110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1017 GMT 17 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Agureyev and Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS— Relations between the United States and Russia are the factor determining the degree of security in the whole world. This is why so much importance is being attached to contacts between the leaders of their defence authorities. This was the key idea behind today's meeting in Moscow between Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

A personal relationship between the two countries' defence ministers is no less important and need further deepening, the meeting was told.

Following talks between the two delegations, William Perry and Pavel Grachev are due to hold a one-to-one conversation. The Russian minister told journalists he wanted to discuss with his opposite number from the United States the situation in Bosnia, Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace programme, joint peacekeeping, the problem of nuclear arms, including their withdrawal from Ukraine and a wide range of problems relating to better relations between the military authorities of the two countries.

Also today, William Perry is due to meet First Russian Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Chief of Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov.

According to American sources, Perry, 66, is a true professional with deep knowledge and extensive experience. He favors the development of the Stealth bombers, Cruise missiles and high- precision electronic-optical homing devices.

Views 'Partnership for Peace'

LD1703111694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS—Russia can join the Partnership for Peace programme at the end of March, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists here today after his meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

"Groups of experts are already completing work on our approach to Russia's membership of the Partnership for Peace project," the Russian minister said.

"Proceeding from Russian specifics, we shall be able to join the concept by the end of this month," he explained.

'Partnership for Peace' for 'Naive Fools'

PM1603145194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 pp 1-2

["Commentary on Yesterday's Report" by Major General (Retired) Viktor Chudov: "Our Strategists Are Too Unsophisticated"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—There have been reports in the mass media that a joint military exercise is to be held on Russian territory with the U.S. Armed Forces, involving a Russian motorized rifle division and a U.S. infantry division. The purpose of the exercise has not been given.

Yesterday PRAVDA informed readers that Brigade General Leonard Holder Jr., commander of the U.S. Army's 3d Infantry Division, had already visited Orenburg. He was involved in preparing for the tactical exercises which it turns out are to be held this summer.

Here just a few ideas for starters. Orenburg Oblast has been announced as the scene of the exercise. The military are aware that the Totskiy test range, where the now-famous exercise involving the detonation of an aerial nuclear bomb took place 40 years ago, is the only place in Orenburg Oblast where such an exercise can be held in the summer until the harvest has been brought in. In terms of training the Totskiy test range is not the most convenient for this kind of exercise. But it is the closest of Russia's test ranges to the Central Asian republics.

It is also well-known that a sizeable Strategic Rocket Forces grouping is stationed in Orenburg Oblast and a top headquarters is stationed in the oblast center. There are also other installations of military and economic importance in the southern Urals that are of interest to certain foreign states' services.

The U.S. infantry division comprises 18,000 personnel, 54 M1 tanks, 200 guns and mortars, nine multiple launchers, 410 antitank guided missiles, 133 armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles, 218 helicopters, several thousand vehicles of various categories and purposes, antiaircraft, engineering, communications, and other combat and auxiliary hardware. What is more, the division will be accompanied by a certain number of interpreters, various advisers, and various support personnel....

This all has to be accommodated, housed, provided with food, fuel and lubricants, and other items and pieces of military gear in accordance with U.S. standards.

A corresponding quantity of supplies will also come with the division. The Americans do not even pay a social call without bringing in supplies. And this is no social call....

Plenty of aircraft—U.S. aircraft, of course—will be required to deliver and subsequently provide these forces and facilities with backup and it will be based at Russian airfields. Thus, there will be a foreign combined military formation and a foreign air base with vague

rights and duties on Russian territory, creating a situation with no normative-legal base.

The scenario and plan for any exercise are formulated on the basis of the exercise's clearly defined objective. What might be the purpose of the scheduled exercise, and why is it not being given?

For Russia the purpose of this kind of exercise is to rehearse cooperation bet veen the two states' combined formations in combat operations against an adversary that one state's armed forces cannot handle alone, in order either to carry out or to rebuff aggression.

First, Russia has no aggressive intent against any neighbors near or far, as the country's supreme military-political leadership has repeatedly stated.

Second, there are no aggressors in the immediate vicinity of Russia that Russia's Armed Forces could not rebuff autonomously. Apart from military alliances like NATO, of which the U.S. Armed Forces form the basis.

A spontaneous exercise to rehearse cooperation between the armed forces of two states that recently opposed one another is pointless. So say military theory and military practice. Thus, for instance, command and control of combat operations includes the processing and analysis of very varied battle management, support, and other information. But how is information from sources that have a totally different informational-linguistic and concept base and uncoordinated means of conveying information to be processed and analyzed? Here is how a Russian specialist describes U.S. Army combat documents: "Combat orders in the U.S. Army are characterized by their own unique features. They are formulated in accordance with a definite, unified, rigorously prescribed format, which is regulated by corresponding instructions and impossible to understand if you do not possess a sound knowledge of them."

The Persian Gulf, for instance, effectively saw operations by a single military bloc, within which information flow was formalized and coordinated along with the concept and the informational-linguistic base, means of conveying information were coordinated, and conferences, seminars, and dozens of exercises of various kinds and levels are held every year. But even there, notwithstanding the pace of combat operations today and the flow of information, linguistic and other barriers have arisen in the way of information and it has not proved possible to overcome these barriers rapidly. We know that the Americans had to deliver 10,000 personal computers and the appropriate software to the combat operation zone in order to automate the process of overcoming these barriers. Nevertheless it did not prove possible to overcome all the barriers and the commander of the multinational forces was forced during both defensive and offensive operations to give all national forces their own area of combat operations....

However, there is a certain hypothetical situation in which Russian and U.S. divisions will be able to operate together without prior preparation. Namely a civil war situation. Is the country's supreme political leadership not preparing for that situation by inviting along foreign divisions?

What is the U.S. military-political leadership's objective in carrying out this exercise?

Throughout the 20th century the United States has tried to gain a footing for its armed forces on the continent of Asia. A tremendous amount of money has been spent and plenty of blood has been shed, U.S. blood included, but it has only succeeded in getting hold of a small piece of the Korean Peninsula. That is why the U.S. side sees it as one of the most important aims of the scheduled exercise to introduce its armed contingent onto Russian soil and open up a new theater of combat operations. The U.S. "Partnership for Peace" concept is for naive fools, a cover for another U.S. concept—"Peace U.S.-Style"—and the strategy of world domination.

The aim is no simple one and includes a whole series, a lengthy set of tasks that would take a long time to list. Although I should do so to enlighten Russian citizens who have lost interest in military problems over the last 50 years of peace.

Some of the details of the coming exercise cause suspicion and doubts among military people who are able to assess events critically and competently: Is this the main aim being pursued by the Americans, who are stage-managing events in Russia?

Remember late 1992. A trend toward consolidation developed in the CIS republics, among not only peoples but also governments and presidents. Preparations were made for a summit-level conference and a package of important documents was made ready for signing.

Then all of a sudden a U.S. President who had had his day and was effectively an ex-president challenged the Russian president to sign the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction—a treaty that was still half-baked and in need of considerable finalization. And our president obediently rushed in, without squaring his actions with his CIS colleagues or the Russian Supreme Soviet. He rushed in and signed the treaty, creating a host of military, economic, and political problems and dealing an arrogant blow to the ambitions of his fellow presidents and legislators. The conference did of course go ahead, but the atmosphere was different and no one has implemented the documents that were signed. I could go on giving examples of interference by U.S. stage managers.

A similar situation is developing once again. A wave of unification sentiments has once again arisen among the peoples of the former USSR republics.

Do U.S. strategists want that? No! How can it be stopped? How can they cause chaos? How can separatists and nationalists be revived and inspired to vigorous activity?

It is hard to think of a better means than an exercise in the south of Asian Russia. And if it involves U.S. troops and is accompanied by certain propaganda details, the reporting of the exercise as well as the actual fact that it is taking place could prove extremely heartening for anti-Russian forces.

Russia does not need the planned exercise, and the presence on Russian territory of any foreign military contingents is unnecessary and harmful. World practice has seen examples of a foreign military legion being stationed on the territory of prostrate and weak states. No one has ever conquered Russia, and it was not and will not be weak. The Americans do not have to teach the Russians how to fight.

It is high time that the Russian military department conducted its own military exercise—a strategic war game to repel aggression by a coalition of nuclear powers, to repel a massive nuclear attack. And all officials whose functional duty is to take charge of repelling aggression should be involved in the exercise. That kind of game could establish what the Russian Armed Forces and their leadership are capable of.

Back in the days of the Union the Russian [as published] General Staff was so assiduous and spent so long persuading the Armed Forces, the military public, and military science of the primacy of politics over strategy that it lost its role and niche in the system of state governance and turned military science into the servant of political libertarianism. The result was that fundamental natural sciences—mathematics, physics, cybernetics, etc—were not called for in resolving military-strategic problems. That is why the present spontaneous attempts to set up research directorates and centers under and within the General Staff in imitation of the foremost capitalist states are rather reminiscent of the efforts of the monkey in I.A. Krylov's fable who tried to improve his age-impaired vision. That is why it is at the very least naive to rely on the General Staff and military science to conduct an exhaustive and systematic analysis of Russia's geostrategic position. The only feasible option in the current situation is a real-life war game [naturnoye modelirovaniye igri], staff and command-staff exercises—unilateral, bilateral, and trilateral—extensively involving staffs and outlining the actions to be taken by troops from all categories of the Russian Armed Forces.

Were the Russian Defense Ministry to organize and carry out that kind of game, it would help clear up many problems of the Russian state's security.

But the Russian Defense Ministry's refusal to carry out this kind of game is also a result which clarifies the stance espoused by the top brass.

Troubles in Ties With U.S. Seen Likely To Grow

MK1603124094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report: "A Partnership That Is Always at Hand"]

[Text] Russia and America are friends and partners once again: The meeting in Vladivostok between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Secretary of State Warren Christopher was officially described as "fully satisfactory." Scandals over Aldrich Ames and Richard Nixon appear to have been left behind. Even the latest effort of the aging former U.S. president—his presence at the "Working Russia" rally on Sunday, where Nixon reportedly signed his name on a leaflet calling on citizens to take part in a rally on 17 March "to campaign for the restoration of the USSR"—has not changed anything.

A certain stabilization in Russian-American relations nearly to the former—pre-crisis—level, however, could have been confidently forecast two weeks ago when an anti-Russian campaign was in full swing in the American press and in Congress. At the time, a "high-ranking official" in charge of foreign policy matters in the Clinton administration was in Moscow on an official visit; naturally, she asked not to be identified should she be quoted. I asked her: "Why did Bill Clinton personally announce the arrest of the Ames couple? Do so extraordinary actions by the top official signify the beginning of drastic changes in relations with Moscow?"

The answer was: "No, they do not, on the contrary. It is because the administration is doing its utmost to keep the relations of partnership with Moscow that the President has spearheaded that campaign, so that it can be quickly and painlessly 'hushed up' afterward. Had he not done so, economic sanctions against Moscow would have already been imposed." (Any Russian bureaucrat or politician would confirm that the best way to "kill" a damaging initiative is to head it.) The Ames case, indeed, has come to nothing surprisingly fast; even the deportation of James Morris, CIA station chief, from Moscow has not drawn any coherent response.

The issue is not only that Bill Clinton has invested too much personal effort in establishing a friendly relationship with Yeltsin and does not want to be seen a bungler. The Russian-American partnership has a more than real foundation. Both parties in the Congress and the administration agree that no return to a global nuclear standoff should be allowed. This is what U.S. Defense Secretary Bill Perry said this week on the eve of his visit to Moscow.

The Americans appear to be ready to go to any length to prevent this prospect from materializing. Hence, there is an entirely realistic alternative to the current soft, pro-Moscow stance by the Washington administration. This is a policy of sanctions, ultimatums, and growing pressure.

In Vladivostok, Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia would not accept the role of "a junior partner" and that it demands equality in relations with the United States. But equality is something we cannot even dream about given current realities. A Russia stricken by permanent political and economic crises does not have realistic possibilities at this stage to pursue a stable, active foreign policy in the Balkans or the Middle East. The Russian Foreign Ministry, however, has been displaying the most intense activity possible, thus successfully creating the legend about a series of "stunning foreign policy successes."

As a result, the image of a strong and increasingly powerful, imperialistic Russia is gaining ground overseas, a Russia that is just ripe to start being "contained." The incompetence of American politicians and political scientists about the actual situation in Russia, apparently, can only be matched by the incompetence of their Russian counterparts. The stabilization in bilateral relations may prove short-lived, and the circumstances and results of Nixon's Moscow visit may turn out to be nothing but harbingers of further events.

Nixon Comments on Potential Russian Leaders

PM1603163194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[ITAR-TASS report: "Richard Nixon: There Is No Alternative To Yeltsin Today"]

[Text] There is no alternative to President Boris Yeltsin in Russia right now. This was stated to journalists by Richard Nixon after his speech at the State Duma committee for international affairs. "I held meetings with a number of leaders and concluded that right now there is no one who would be ready to take his place," the U.S. ex-president stressed. "They will appear but for the moment there are no people like that," ITAR-TASS reports.

Speaking of his meetings with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Sergey Shakhray, Richard Nixon noted: "They are both young, vigorous, and highly educated. I think they can be viewed as potential leaders. But I would not rule out others with whom I met. In particular I was impressed by the Communists' leader Gennadiy Zyuganov. But he will not become president since Russia does not intend to return to communism."

Chief of Armed Forces General Staff Ends Visit to France

LD1603185494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris March 16 TASS—Russian chief of General Staff Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov ended his visit to France with a lecture, "Defence Policy and Reorganisation of the Russian Armed Forces," at the French military school on Wednesday [16 March].

Kolesnikov toured the school located in the French capital and had a one-to-one meeting with his French counterpart Jacques Lanxade.

During his three-day visit, Kolesnikov met with French military leaders to discuss French military policy in light of the white paper recently issued by the government, France's participation in U.N. peace-keeping operations, its relations with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO, the Western European Union and Russian-French bilateral relations.

Kolesnikov also had talks with head of the parliamentary defence commission Jacques Bouaillon, visited the air force base Mont-de- Marsan where attended air force exercises and an air force division in Toulouse.

The high-ranking French military believe Kolesnikov's visit will help strengthen defence cooperation between Russia and France.

Tokyo Supports Russia's Participation in G-7 Meetings

LD1703112394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 17 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo March 17 TASS—Tokyo believes that Russia's official membership of the Group of Seven industrialised countries (G-7) should be decided gradually and "naturally" in line with the accumulation of positive results of dialogues between the leading industrial countries and Russia.

This was announced at a meeting between Japan's Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is also deputy prime minister, with Russian journalists ahead of his visit to Moscow on March 19.

Hata said Italy, which is president of the G-7 meetings this year, will decide on inviting Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the G-7 summit in Naples and on the form of his participation in it.

The earlier tested scheme "seven plus one," in accordance with which the Russian president has already participated in G-7 annual meeting, is quite suitable for discussing frankly and openly political and economic issues of concern to all, he added.

"I consider the fact of Russia's regular participation in G-7 meetings as important," Hata pointed out and stressed that a change to the current formula would depend on the results of dialogue between Moscow and the leading industrial powers of the world.

Churkin Meets Milosevic, Karadzic, Leaves for Washington

LD1603181894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Vitaliy Churkin met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today. The official report about the meeting says the two exchanged views on the talks process, Russia's initiatives, and the conditions for achieving a political settlement in the former Yugoslavia. It was stressed that one of the main conditions is that equal account be taken of the national and state interests of the sides drawn into the conflict and that mediation by international representatives be impartial.

Churkin also met Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The sides described the meeting as "a continuation of working contacts with a high level of mutual understanding." Karadzic expressed his satisfaction with the fact that when the issue of a Muslim-Croatian federation in Bosnia was being discussed, the Russian side had made it quite clear that the Bosnian Serbs have the same sovereign rights as the Muslims and Croats. For the Bosnian Serbs, close relations with Yugoslavia are crucial, so we have to look for a way towards a settlement that takes account of this interest, Karadzic said.

Churkin left Belgrade today. He said he was going to Washington to hold consultations about the Yugoslav problem with the U.S. President's special representative Charles Redman.

Croatian Embassy Denies Zhirinovskiy Invited To Visit

LD1603185094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The Croatian Embassy in Moscow has denied today the reports that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, was allegedly invited to visit Croatia.

An official invitation for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to visit the Republic of Croatia does not exist, Tonny Stanicic, first secretary of the Croatian Embassy in Moscow, told ITAR-TASS today.

Zhirinovskiy Invites Saddam Husayn To Attend Party Congress

LD1603171494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1555 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has been officially invited to attend the congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], which opens on 2 April in Moscow. This has been confirmed by LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in response to an inquiry from a correspondent for the journal EKHO PLANETY [ECHO OF THE PLANET]. "We have invited anybody with whom we maintain relations—people from Iraq, Serbia, North Korea, South Korea, and other countries. We have friends everywhere," he said.

The sensational news that the president of Taiwan had also been invited to the congress and might turn up has not so far been confirmed.

However, it has been reported from Paris that the first deputy leader of the French National Front will definitely come to Moscow for the LDPR congress. The head of the extreme right-wing German People's Union, Gerhard Frey, also intends to take part in it.

Zhirinovskiy on 'Third World War,' 'Assault' on Slavs

WS1603160494 Riga THE BALTIC OBSERVER in English 10-16 Mar 94 p 5

[Report by Vladimir Vodeau in Moscow]

[Text] In an interview with THE BALTIC OBSERVER in Moscow March 5, out-spoken Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that "my people and supporters are safeguarding the interests of Russians wherever they live, including the Baltic states."

He added that his views, which many regard as harsh if not insane, are a defensive reaction to the assault on Slavic nations from the Baltics to the Balkans and beyond.

"The present government," said Zhirinovskiy with a wave of this hand "has betrayed the nation and doomed it to extinction. This is real genocide. Look at Bosnia. Nobody but us prevented Sarajevo from being bombed by the allied NATO forces. I made it quite clear that the NATO attack on Sarajevo would mean an outbreak of war with Russia, and the generals over in the West figured it out."

In Zhirinovskiy's view, NATO is trying to isolate Russia by inviting the Baltic countries and other Eastern European nations to join the Partnership for Peace program, and by surrounding Russia and the Serbs with enemies.

"NATO plans to completely isolate Russia and Bosnia. In Bosnia, part of its population is to be converted to Catholicism, while the rest are to become Muslims.

"Now look, Russia is surrounded by Islamic countries in the south from the Balkans to Turkey and Central Asia. In China, there are 1.2 billion Chinese, in the West, Germans and Balts.

"In fifty years, there won't be any Russians left, except in Moscow, Vologda, and Arkhangel'sk in the north. The last 10 to 15 million Russians would kick the bucket there," Zhirinovskiy said.

He added that these strikes against Russia and the Bosnian Serbs showed that "the Third World War is on, but in the West they're afraid of Russia's powerful arsenals, so they destroy us economically."

He bemoaned the passing of great Russia, saying that "once Russia was proud of its ballet, space explorers, science, and powerful army, but no more."

Another problem confronting Russia, in Zhirinovskiy's view, is the influx of refugees from other countries.

"We must stop this wave of refugees, except for Russians. Many of them are fleeing oppression in the Baltic and Asian states

"A ban should be introduced for traders and profiteers, they mustn't be let in our towns and villages. And send away all foreign students," Zhirinovskiy said.

All foreigners, he said, have to have visas.

As for his future plans, Zhirinovskiy told THE BALTIC OBSERVER that he has his eye on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's job. He believes that the presidential elections will take place long before June 12, 1996, and that "if we elect the wrong leader again, and take the wrong path, it would be unpardonable."

On a final note, Zhirinovskiy said "for three months now, they have been calling me a Russian Hitler. Can you imagine? All these years, my people and I have been honest and sincere."

Zhirinovskiy Interviewed by Israeli Paper

TA1603180894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 16 Mar 94 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy by Moscow correspondent Dmitriy Prokofiev outside the Russian parliament; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Prokofiev] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, you say that you will be the next president of Russia, but recent polls give you only 6 percent of the vote.

[Zhirinovskiy] The polls are rubbish. Before the elections they said Zhirinovskiy would hardly make the minimum required quota, but I won. The press publishes those polls because it is paid to do so. It is paid to do me in. However, nobody will do me in, and I will destroy them all.

[Prokofiev] Who is paying and who wants to destroy you?

[Zhirinovskiy] The mafia wants to do me in, because I will exterminate it the day after the elections, when I become president of the state. As soon as I enter the Kremlin, I will issue a decree to exterminate organized crime.

Ten thousand gang leaders will be arrested and executed in public ceremonies. That is what I will do to them. So, the mafia is afraid and is paying for this character assassination. And you, the journalists, publish it. You are turncoats. You are constantly inciting. And then you are surprised when a journalist disappears here and another is murdered there. If you go on inciting and slandering, everybody will start killing you off.

[Prokofiev] Are you sure you will become the next president of the state in spite of what you call the incitement and slander against you?

[Zhirinovskiy] No doubt about it. There are no other candidates. If elections are held this year, I will get 55 percent of the vote in the first round. If the elections are held in two years, then all the better. By then I will be 50, the voters will give me a present, and I will probably get 70 percent.

There are no other candidates. There simply are not. All the politicians who are identified with the government do not stand a chance because they are responsible for the poverty, inflation, and organized crime. A genocide, that is what is happening here. Sexual deviation and death throes.

The health minister says there are fewer abortions now. Sure there are less. After all, almost all the women who can still have abortions have already emigrated from Russia. That is what the current regime has done.

And, there is nobody in the opposition who the people know as well as they know me. When I visit the Russian countryside, people kiss my hands. They truly overwhelm me with their kissing.

They know I am the only one here protecting the rights of the Russian people. Nobody believes the libel you spread about me, such as that I am a fascist, a Jew hater, and whatnot.

The name of my party is the Liberal Democratic Party. So, I am a liberal and a democrat, and cannot be either a fascist or an anti- Semite. [passage omitted]

[Prokofiev] So, you do not have any problems with the Jews?

[Zhirinovskiy] There are no problems. I am neither an anti- Semite nor a Zionist. That does not interest me at all. Many Jewish journalists claim that I am anti-Semite, but that is only because the mafia pays them off. Other journalists claim that I am a Zionist, and they are also paid by the underworld.

[Prokofiev] You also said that the CIA pays.

[Zhirinovskiy] Sure, the CIA pays. The Americans do not want Russia to have a strong and intelligent leader who will take care of national interests. But they will fail. Everybody will fail, I will be the next president, and Russia will triumph.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Issues Instruction on Work of Appeals Commission

LD1703112494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] President Yeltsin has issued an instruction on certain questions regarding the work of the commission for questions of appeals under the president of the Russian Federation. In accordance with the document, as the president's press service has reported, the commission is due to examine applications for appeals by persons condemned to capital punishment and to prepare a draft decree of the president on the pardoning of such persons. The criminal code says that in the event of the commutation of capital punishment on appeal to deprivation of freedom, it may be fixed for a period of up to 15 years or for life.

Opposition Leaders Interviewed: 'Coup Rumors' Cited

LD1603214794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 16 March carries the 10-minute "Details" program, presented by Sergey Dorenko. The program carries brief recorded interviews with some opposition figures at unspecified locations.

The presenter begins by noting that there will be opposition rallies in Moscow's Theater Square on 17 March. He says that the exact number of militia and internal troops who will be assigned for crowd control is a military secret, "but there will be enough." Dorenko adds, however, that the militia are demoralized by the recent amnesty decision: "They risked their lives during such operations; the criminals then walked free."

There follow telephone interviews with former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Communist Party chairman Gennadiy Zyuganov, who criticize the rallies as pointless and state that they have no involvement with them. Zyuganov says that the situation could get out of control and play into the hands of provocateurs.

Dorenko notes that opposition leaders fear the rally more than the government; he says they are already applying enough pressure on Yeltsin and do not need street fights to put them in power.

He goes on: "From contact with all the opposition leaders we gained the impression today that they are all terribly afraid of something."

Sergey Baburin, leader of the Russian Popular Alliance, then appears. He says: "I am, of course, put on my guard both by the fact that the defense minister postponed his trip to St. Petersburg and by the fact that the president hastily went off to Sochi. This all indicates that there may be surprises in store, but not from those who are conducting the rally."

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), is shown. He says: "Troop movements are thought to be taking place nevertheless and a scenario, as it were, is being worked out: under the pretext of eliminating the consequences of inspired and provoked mass disorder—for example, a group of armed bandits attacks a group of traders, over 200 fatalities, blood—under the pretext of putting an end to massive disorder, a state of emergency is declared in the city and, accordingly, there may be restrictions on political freedoms."

Mikhail Astafyev, leader of the Cadet Party, says that only the country's present leadership need a crisis on the streets. Members of the opposition want power to come to them by the due process of politics, but the authorities are whipping up tension by practising military manoeuvres.

Dorenko resumes: "Today deputies of all the colours in the rainbow, from Russia's Choice to the LDPR, came up to us and talked about a failed attempt yesterday at a coup in Russia with the ousting of the president and his dismissal from power. Deputies link this with the immediate hospitalization of counterintelligence chief Stepashin right after his conversation with the president. Among the heroes of the defense of the president, they name Yakovlev, head of the Ostankino TV company, and General Korzhakov. Whether or not these rumors are true or not, they characterize the atmosphere in some power structures."

Dorenko goes on to say: "A considerable section of the opposition feels very strong. It is sure that power is just about to fall into its hands. Yet they fear that power will be seized from them by the power structures and by the economic elite, which will take over the country together with Yeltsin or without him. The opposition is aware that it is weaker than its competitors and is even doing its utmost to defend the president."

Zhirinovskiy next says: "It's a purely Russian scenario. The president is supposed to be ill or on vacation. It's Foros-2. A good scenario: he's on vacation, he doesn't know anything. If disorders occur, democracy is curtailed. If everything is okay, he is protected and gets fuller powers. If things are bad, he is protected and punishes those who were unable to do anything. That's it—maybe that's all it takes. We've had October 91 and October 93. Why not March 94?"

Dorenko concluded the program by saying: "All schemes and schedules for the future carving of power are based on the assumption that the president is seriously ill. Incidentally, we know from our sources that, on 6 March this year, President Yeltsin had a thorough medical check-up, including an investigation of his kidneys and cerebral blood circulation. Our sources say that the president feels, at least, no worse than two years ago. We trust our sources. But you, of course, are not obliged to trust them at all until you are given the details by the president's physician."

Military & Nuclear Issues

Grachev Holds News Conference in Moscow 16 Mar

LD1603191894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1809 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar—The agreement signed by the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh military representative with the mediation of the Russian defense minister in Moscow on 18 February does not infringe the rights and dignity of any state and should be observed. This was stated by Army General Pavel Grachev, chief of the Russian military department, at a meeting with journalists. He is not satisfied with how the agreement is being observed as "none of the sides is totally fulfilling the obligations undertaken." "Unfortunately, percentage-wise the Azerbaijani side is the one least fulfilling the agreement," Pavel Grachev noted.

The leadership of Azerbaijan, in the minister's words, is categorically against bringing troops into the conflict region, which would make it possible to withdraw the troops of both sides some 20-30 km from where they are deployed. Grachev called this circumstance "a stumbling block."

The Russian defense minister informed journalists that on 15 March he refused to meet the heads of the military departments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, who arrived in Moscow, and stated that he does not intend to meet them until they comply with the agreement which had been signed with his participation.

Comments on Control of Strategic Weapons

LD1603194894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1817 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 16 March—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev intends on 17 and 18 March to visit military formations and units in Kaliningrad oblast. He announced this today at a meeting with journalists.

The head of the country's defense department denied reports by some of the foreign mass media that he had not left for Leningrad military district because of extreme social tension in society requiring, it is claimed, the presence in Moscow of a "strong hand." He also said that the reports that troops in Moscow military district had allegedly been put on an enhanced readiness footing were false.

At the ITAR-TASS correspondent's request Pavel Grachev explained that he is one of those in possession of a so-called nuclear button. One button is with the Russian President, who is at present in Sochi; the second button is with himself; and the third is with the Chief of the General Staff, who has gone to France on a working visit. Pavel Grachev emphasized that, although the president has in his possession a control system for the strategic nuclear forces in the form of a "small nuclear case," there should always be one of the military leaders in Moscow at the permanent control point.

"This evening, the Chief of the General Staff is returning from Paris, and tomorrow I shall be leaving for Kaliningrad in accordance with the plan for visiting troops", Pavel Grachev stated in conclusion.

Comments on Order to Retarget Missiles

LD1603153294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov; Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1544 GMT on 16 March transmits a service message killing this item]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar 16 TASS—Shifting of targets of Russia's nuclear missiles does no damage to security of the Russian Federation and other states but is a manifestation of confidence and strengthening of strategic stability, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told ITAR-TASS here today.

The defense minister was commenting on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent order assigning the Defense Ministry before May 30 "to take measures aimed at organizing the everyday activities of the strategic nuclear forces with non-targeted missiles".

Pavel Grachev added that the issue on the mutual non-targeting of strategic weapons of Russia and the United States was raised for the first time at a meeting of the two presidents in Vancouver last year. In January this year Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton confirmed in the Moscow Declaration that they would give the appropriate instructions to their defense ministries.

According to the Russian defense minister, Britain also joined this initiative.

Pavel Grachev believes that terms of implementing this decision will be determined by organizational and technical possibilities, and are specific for each kind of strategic weapons.

Describes Whereabouts of Nuclear 'Buttons'

PM1603170994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Izgarshev: "Who Has Nuclear Buttons"]

[Text] "Will there be a third way?" "What will happen to the Russian Army if the Duma approves the Ministry of Finance's version of the defense budget?" "With whom is it easier for the defense minister to deal—his counterparts from remote foreign parts or from nearby foreign

parts? "Did the supreme commander take the nuclear button with him to Sochi?..."

Russian and foreign journalists put an extremely large number of questions to Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at yesterday's press conference. Perhaps the fact that it is three months since the minister met with the press had an effect, but most likely the keenness of the questions was caused by the acute nature of the moment our Russia is living through now.

Everything taking place in society is visibly reflected in the life of the troops. A tendency has emerged toward the normalization of the crime situation in the troops (the number of some types of gross law violations was reduced from 25 to 40 percent last year). As a whole, the fall and winter draft proceeded in a better and more organized manner. Pavel Grachev honestly and frankly described all of the Army's "sores" and the main tasks that the troops are resolving.

Regarding the putsch the minister put it like this: Their time has passed. We must work and do our job or we shall all be left without bread. As for nuclear buttons, we have three of them. One of the buttons "went" with the president to Sochi. Grachev has the second, Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov has the third, but since he is on a visit to France the minister has been left with the button and that is why his previously announced visit to the Leningrad Military District was deferred.

In conclusion, I report to readers that it is a long time since the military from PRAVDA were invited to the Defense Ministry. Yesterday, our correspondent was there for the first time after a lengthy "vacation." We shall consider relations restored.

Denies Rumors About Army on Alert

MK1703085094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov: "Pavel Grachev's Press Conference. The Military Are Concerned by the Economy, Not by Politics"]

[Excerpt] None of the journalists who came yesterday to the defense minister's press conference knew for sure what had prompted the event. Representatives of the mass media asked Pavel Grachev lots of questions concerning the problems of the Armed Forces that they were interested in before the purpose of the press conference was clarified. Mr. Grachev denied rumors that the Army had been put on alert and that some of his actions were allegedly politically motivated.

In the view of many observers, one of the reasons for the rumors was the postponement of Pavel Grachev's announced visit to the Leningrad Military District. Some time ago the defense minister said that he would stay in Moscow as long as the president and the General Staff chief are away from the capital in order to exercise day-to-day command and control of the strategic nuclear forces. In the press conference, Pavel Grachev flatly denied any political bottom line of this decision, saying only that such is normal practice and that one of the three must always remain in Moscow. Today, when General Staff Chief Mikhail Kolesnikov is returning from France, the defense minister will leave for Kaliningrad.

Pavel Grachev also denied rumors that there are units in the Moscow Military District that had been put on alert. He reaffirmed that the Army does not interfere in the political struggle and it is not going to do so, but that it will act decisively if it senses the threat of civil war. [passage omitted]

Comments on Army Funding

LD1603155594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Grachev remarks are recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev held a news conference in Moscow today at which he spoke of the problems of organizational development in the Russian Army. According to him, the Army today cannot be provided with new military equipment as needed because defense enterprises are in a catastrophic state, i.e, in a state of forced conversion. The Ministry of Defense owes them a huge sum of money.

However, Pavel Grachev stated publicly for the first time that the Army is being financed at such a low level that there would be a complete breakdown if it is any lower.

[Grachev] That is what the budget which, unfortunately, the Ministry of Finance is offering us, could lead to; the Ministry of Finance, which, you see, knows all about how to maintain the army and on what budget.

As to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, Pavel Grachev believes it should be settled in accordance with the Massandra Agreement between Ukraine and Russia, according to which the Ukrainian part of the fleet, after an appropriate inventory, would be passed over to Russia.

[Grachev] Russia will pay suitably for leasing this part of the fleet, and the fleet stays unified and indivisible, as at present. But this is being done with a lot of difficulties.

Pavel Grachev read the journalists a message from Admiral Baltin which reports continuing acts of the Ukrainian powers that use special purpose troops and OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] forces with the aim of forcing the personnel of the fleet to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

Warns Against Army Cutbacks

LD1603152294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has warned against cuts in troop numbers to less than 1.9 Mn. Speaking in Moscow on Wednesday, he put the Army's current strength at 2.3 Mn which is to be reduced by 200,000 this year.

Grachev said that a lack of financing was the main problem facing the Army at the moment. He said that the government-proposed military spending of only 46-47 percent of what was needed would make it impossible not only to implement Army reform, but also to maintain its combat readiness. Grachev spoke of wanting to fight for additional resources, stressing that both Yeltsin and the prime minister were well aware of the Army's problems.

The minister is unhappy over the implementation of the Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement for Nagorno-Karabakh that Armenia and Azerbaijan signed in Moscow. He blamed the setback largely on Baku. Grachev also spoke of having refused to meet the Armenian and Azeri defence chiefs arriving in Moscow on Tuesday until the two sides complied with the ceasefire agreement, which he described as a fair one.

The minister said he was supportive of the Partnership for Peace concept though Russia worked out its own parameters for participation. Unlike East European countries, he said, Russia has no plans of joining NATO, preferring closer cooperation with it instead.

Complains of Lack of Money

PM1703093194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Army Carries Out Its Tasks Despite All the Difficulties and Problems"]

[Text] Yesterday Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, held a routine press hour for Russian and foreign journalists. According to established tradition, at the start of the discussion he briefed journalists on what has happened in the Russian Armed Forces since their last meeting. We would remind you that this took place late in December 1993.

First, the defense minister stressed that the process of reform is continuing in the troops in accordance with the plans and tasks set out in the president's Message to the Federal Assembly. There have been systematic moves to improve the system of command and control, create new groupings of troops and mobile forces, improve the system of Army and Navy staffing, and equip them with the requisite hardware and arms. The defense minister singled out a few of the most important areas of Armed Forces reform. Primarily, he stressed, the system of military legislation has continued to be fine-tuned. The Defense Ministry has already prepared over 20 draft laws. Drafts of new laws—"On Martial Law" and "On the Military Militia"—are also being formulated.

Other measures to reform the Armed Forces have gone strictly according to plan. The problem of reducing the numerical strength of troops and forces remains an important one. The defense minister emphasized that it has been decided following comprehensive analysis to propose that the strength of the Armed Forces be ratified at 1.9 million men. It is thought that the lower figure proposed previously is simply inadmissible.

At the beginning of the year it had also proved possible to overcome the negative tendency with regard to nonfulfillment of the draft plan. To date 88 percent of draftees (of the current plan) are already performing their constitutional duty in the Army and Navy. Toward the end of March it is intended to raise the draft level to 95 percent.

A considerable improvement has also been recorded in the state of troop discipline. Compared with 1993 the total number of crimes and violations has dropped by one-fourth. There have been 22 percent fewer cases of irregular relationships and 20 percent fewer cases of draft dodging. On the whole, the defense minister stressed, the nature of offenses within the Army and Navy reflects the situation in society.

The defense minister voiced the greatest concern in connection with the problem of shaping the military budget and funding the Armed Forces. According to him, if the adverse trends continue and radical, determined measures are not taken in the near future, it will be impossible to speak not just about further reform of the Army, but even about the security of Russia generally. To date the Finance Ministry is providing less than 50 percent of the required funding to meet the needs and ensure the normal functioning of the Army and Navy. Naturally, that situation cannot suit us. The defense minister underlined the fact that he would continue to try to obtain the necessary budget for the Armed Forces. He did point out that even in these conditions potential does exist for obtaining additional funding for the troops. This potential primarily arises from the Defense Ministry's right to set its own targets and sell combat hardware itself and from its ability to sell surplus military property to the national economy, cut the order to the military-industrial complex, and also further reduce the Armed Forces. Naturally the fact that this plan exists does not mean that reform of the Army and Navy will occur in precisely these areas. We will not permit a wholesale reduction in the Army, the minister stressed, especially since that does not benefit the state as a whole. The defense minister went on to emphasize that the military budget under discussion will still have an explicit social thrust. The intention is to spend over 50 percent of all budget funds, which the Defense Ministry is allocated on social protection for servicemen.

During the press conference Defense Minister Pavel Grachev answered numerous questions about problems

of military cooperation with countries both near and far. In particular, he pointed out good prospects for cooperation with France, the United States, and the FRG, as well as with Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and other Commonwealth countries. Commenting on recent events in the Black Sea Fleet, Pavel Grachev stressed that the current problems should not affect the unconditional fulfillment of the Massandra agreements and that he is hoping to cooperate closely with the Ukrainian defense minister despite certain difficulties.

As at previous meetings with journalists, there was no avoiding questions with a political slant. In particular, the defense minister was asked whether his current presence in Moscow was due to the need for a "strong hand" in the capital. Pavel Grachev forthrightly rejected the political slant to the question and stressed that the Army is engaged in performing its tasks.

Rosvooruzheniye Boss: Russia 'Has Not Lost' Arms Markets

PM1703091394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Valentin Rudenko: "Russia Has Not Lost Its Markets, 'Rosvooruzheniye' General Director Viktor Samoylov Believes"]

[Text] As we have already reported, the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Arms and Military Hardware Import-Export Company was set up last November in accordance with the Russian president's edict on the basis of the "Oboroneksport" All-Russia Association, the "Spetsvneshtekhnika" State Company, and the Main Administration for Cooperation and Production Sharing. The new company has now held its launch.

What prompted the president and the government to embark on the centralization of military-technical cooperation and to concentrate the entire Russian arms trade virtually in one pair of hands? First and foremost, of course, the desire to establish—as is generally accepted in the entire civilized world—a strict state monopoly on the export of weapons and military hardware. It is no secret that a situation had come about of late whereby state specialist exporters, in an attempt by hook or by crook to win the right to conclude contracts, were competing with each other in the foreign market and duplicating each other—which, with a single producer, inevitably led to a dissipation of effort and dumping prices. For instance, five Russian specialist arms exporters tendered for a 1992 munitions delivery to India. They were all offering products from the same plant. As a result, the unit cost of the ammunition was knocked down from $700 to $450.

Or take the following example: In the space of a single year the Malaysian and Bangladesh defense ministers were visited by representatives of 24 Russian firms, who unanimously stated that they had exclusive rights to sell our weapons.

With the formation of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, which is directly subordinate to the Russian president, the situation will change fundamentally for the better. Now all our foreign partners will have a clear idea of with whom they are dealing.

As for the weapons manufacturers, in the opinion of "Rosvooruzheniye" General Director Viktor Samoylov, their rights will in no way be infringed upon. As before, all major Russian defense enterprises will actively participate in foreign economic activity. Only the producers can determine what each country needs, what modifications to the weapons need to be made for each country, how best to organize servicing, and so forth. The state company intends to act as a representative, providing state monitoring, helping to process documentation, and so forth.

At a meeting with journalists, Viktor Samoylov stated quite definitely that Russia has not lost its traditional markets at present. The process of incorporating "Rosvooruzheniye" into the market has been evolutionary rather than revolutionary, and this has meant that it has been able to ensure complete continuity and to maintain all the links which the "Oboroneksport" All-Russia Association, the "Spetsvneshtekhnika" State Company, and the Main Administration for Cooperation and Production Sharing previously had.

According to forecasts from "Rosvooruzheniye" specialists, this year there is every reason to expect an increase rather than a reduction in the volume of military-technical cooperation. Not least in markets that are new to Russia. The company intends to take an important step in this direction at the FIDAE '94 airshow, which opens in Chile Sunday. In the opinion of Pavel Trishin, deputy general director of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, our display at the exhibition will stand out from all the others to our advantage.

Shaposhnikov on Difficulties in Military-Industrial Complex

LD1703105894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 17 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Mar TASS—The military-industrial complex is experiencing difficulties caused not by budgetary limitations but by military politics, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the Russian president's representative at the Rosvooruzhenie joint stock society, said in an inteview with ITAR-TASS here on Thursday.

He explained that munitions factories now remained without stiff centralised administration and are subdivided into three self-organised systems.

According to Shaposhnikov, one of them is engaged in filling orders from the Defence Ministry and "keeps afloat with paltry budgetary injections." The second,

numerically bigger and more important, is called upon "to develop new types of weaponry and operate with an eye to the future."

It is financed with budgetary leftovers and is dragging out beggarly existence, the marshal noted. The third, the smallest in talent and technical potential, sells weaponry abroad. It lives a lavish living. "Therefore, aspirants for foreign business trips are besieging this system."

The marshal expressed opinion that the three systems should be pooled into a powerful scientific and production complex to work on three or four conversion programmes instead of the present 11.

A specially appointed vice-premier should supervise the complex. "The restoration of the vertical of production subordination will immediately tell on labour productivity," Shaposhnikov claimed.

Consumer goods now account for 80 per cent of munitions factories' output. But these goods overstock their warehouses due to high prices and mutual nonpayments. On the other hand, Russia lost its place on the world arms market by cutting the production of combat materiel.

The marshal suggests that Russia use the experience of advanced arms-manufacturing countries. For instance, the United States is not afraid of selling new types of weapons. It channels earned revenues to research and introduces advanced technologies.

Business-like Americans offer Russia surpluses of revenues from their arms business for its conversion programmes, removing thereby a potentially powerful competitor.

"The military-industrial complex does not need subsidies. It can earn huge revenues for the Russian treasury. It is only necessary to help it to brace for the implementation of a long-term programme suggested by specialists," Shaposhnikov concluded.

Progress of Reform in Military Sphere Surveyed

PM1603163594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Khokhlov report under the general heading "Army Finances Sing Gloomy Songs": "Khaki-Colored Reform"]

[Text] There is a whole section in Boris Yeltsin's message to parliament "On Strengthening the Russian State" which is given over to an analysis of the reform in the Army and problems of the Armed Forces. This is nothing to be surprised at, as it seems that the only stabilizing force in this unsettled country, which is, moreover, surrounded by local conflict zones, is the "man armed with a gun."

The Russian Federation president noted that the reforms in the Army and Navy are going according to plan, in accordance with the concept of the Armed Forces' organizational development elaborated at the Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Law "On Defense," and the defense minister's orders. Since spring 1992 (after the presidential edict on creating a Russian Army), 11 laws and more than 100 normative legal acts have been elaborated and adopted. The Armed Forces' strength has been reduced by 457,000 men. Three military district directorates, eight army directorates, the army corps directorate, 19 divisional directorates, and eight military schools have been disbanded. The process of reducing the number of large strategic formations (Army—corps) and combined units (divisions), military higher educational establishments, scientific research institutes, and redundant command and control organs is continuing.

At the same time new structures are being formed which respond to the demands of the new times. Who could earlier have thought that the Moscow and North Caucasus Military Districts would have ended up on the border? Now new force groupings are being formed within them. However, there is every sign that the Armed Forces' basic structure will be preserved until 1996. Military experts consider this to be necessary for two reasons. First, they say, we have had enough "revolutions," the evolutionary route for the Army and Navy's reform is preferable. Second, the ailing Russian economy will not be able to "stand" a fundamental restructuring of the Armed Forces.

Our strategic nuclear forces continue to be the main guarantor of this country's security. The principle of mobile defense lies at the heart of the general-purpose forces' organizational development. The priorities for military technical policy have been given as the maintenance of nuclear security, the equipping of mobile forces, and the supplying of the Armed Forces with up-to-date facilities for military command and control, communications, intelligence, and electronic warfare.

The reforms are in general under way, moving forward, and expanding. We must wait and see what results they will bring. Informed sources in the Ministry of Defense claim that three things are important for the Russian Army and Navy's reform. First, money. Second, money. And third, money yet again.

Incidentally, the military budget for 1994 has not yet been confirmed. The monthly "rationed" injections of cash for the Army are practically speaking only being used for wages and plugging "holes"....

Nuclear Arms Plants Experiencing 'Enormous Difficulties'

PM1703091794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 8

[Report by Anatoliy Safonov: "Closed Cities Given New Names"]

[Text] Not everyone knows that under a Russian Federation Government directive the former closed city of Arzamas-16 was given the official geographical name of Kremlev City at the beginning of this year. It is here, in Nizhnyy Novgorod Oblast, that the Russian Federation nuclear center is located, and it is here that its honorable scientific leader, Academician Yuliy Khariton, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, lives. He was the first to be awarded the title of honored citizen of the city of Kremlev.

Other former closed and numbered cities have also received official names: Krasnoyarsk-26 is now Zheleznogorsk, Krasnoyarsk-45 is Zelenogorsk, Penza-19—Zarechnyy, Sverdlovsk-44—Novouralsk, Sverdlovsk-45—Lesnoy, Tomsk-7—Seversk, Chelyabinsk-70—Snezhinsk, and Zlatoust-26—Trekhgornyy. So, address your letters according to the cities' new names. According to data from the newspaper ATOM-PRESSA—the publication for workers in Russia's nuclear power sector and industry—there are over 700,000 people in former closed cities located on the sites of enterprises in the nuclear munitions complex. The largest of these—the city which is now Seversk—has over 100,000 inhabitants.

Right now, the production units located in these cities are experiencing enormous difficulties. The size of the state order has fallen sharply, insufficient budget funds are being allocated to implement conversion programs, and there is a delay in paying workers' wages. The sector also has its share of unemployed—over 3,000 people are receiving unemployment benefit.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Discusses Ossetian-Ingush Problems

LD1603175094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] At its closed session Wednesday [16 March] the Federation Council started to discuss the situation in the zone of the state of emergency on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

The Federation Council's commission which has visited the conflict zone put forward a proposal to expand the state of emergency over the entire territory of North Ossetia. At present the state of emergency has been introduced only on a part of North Ossetia's and Ingushetia's territories.

North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov disagreed with this proposal and declared that "the commission has not even tried to penetrate the essence of this problem." The Federation Council can promote the conflict settlement "if its resolution does not become another negative and illegal link in the chain of decisions adopted earlier," he said in his interview with journalists. Among these "illegal decisions" Galazov mentioned the decree on rehabilitation of the repressed peoples and the decree on the creation of the Ingush republic which, as he believes, actually legalizes the territorial redivision.

During his conversation with journalists Ingush President Ruslan Aushev supported the recommendations of the Federation Council Commission on introduction of the state of emergency on the territory of North Ossetia. He also does not rule out the possibility of such a measure as establishing presidential rule in the conflict zone.

State Duma Resolution on Yeltsin Message Outlines Tasks

LD1603213594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2014 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The State Duma adopted a resolution on Wednesday [16 March] on Boris Yeltsin's message to parliament "On Strengthening Russian Statehood."

Under the resolution, the most important task of the State Duma is to ensure legislative support for the development of the Russian Federation in order to create an integral and stable democratic country with due respect for human rights, efficient economy, and which persistently realises principles of federal relations and ensures the rights of nations and nationalities.

The government of the Russian Federation is entrusted to work out measures for overcoming the socio-economic crisis in the country. Lawmakers pointed out that the State Duma should continue its work to prevent further decline in Russia's industry and agriculture and create an efficient socially-oriented system of the industrial complex aimed at the constructive revival of the industrial and agricultural potential.

In accordance with main provisions of the presidential message and sharing his concern over the situation in the country and stemming from lawmakers' commitments and electors' wishes, the State Duma intends to prepare and work out the most important laws aimed at taking the country out of crisis and stabilising its economy, carrying out the reform of budgetary, taxation, credit and financial system and protecting domestic manufacturers.

Priority should be given to federal constitutional laws, federal laws in the sphere of franchise and civil rights, the right to work and housing, judicial reform and human rights.

Proceeding from the fact that the insolvency crisis and overdue wages pose a special threat, fraught with serious social upheaval, the State Duma decided to turn to the

president and the government with a proposal that this problem be resolved without delay and in the shortest possible time.

Endorses Procedure for Future Hearings

LD1603133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The State Duma has endorsed a procedure for future parliamentary hearings.

At its plenary meeting on Wednesday [16 March], the Duma directed appropriate committees to arrange for hearings on the Partnership-for-Peace documents, which had been adopted at a session of the North Atlantic Council in January 1994, on matters concerning the implementation of the START I Treaty and its realisation problems, an analysis of the status and problems of the state border of the Russian Federation, and on the Russia's participation in international agreements on the elimination of chemical weapons.

The Duma will also hold hearings to consider "the results of the privatisation of state-run and municipal enterprises of the Russian Federation in 1992-1993" and a relevant state programme, on structural, science and technology policy, and a concept of the Russian Federation's transition to a steady development model.

Notes Local Government Election Law Violations

LD1603164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The Russian General Prosecutor's Office has received more than 90 reports about violations of the Election Law by local bodies of state authority in Russian regions, the State Duma was told today. Such violations were registered in 23 component parts of the federation. The worst was that citizens, servicemen in particular, were not allowed to run for seats in local bodies of power.

The Russian State Duma reaffirmed on Wednesday [16 March] its intention to pass a bill on guarantees of voters' rights during elections to local government. The president as the guarantor of the Constitution is recommended to take measures to avert such violations.

Approves Law on Peacekeeping Personnel

LD1603195794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—The lower house of the Russian parliament approved in the first reading a federal draft law "On the order of involving military and civil personnel of the Russian Federation in operations for the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security and other kinds of peace-keeping activities."

Russian deputy defence minister, Georgiy Kondratyev, addressed lawmakers today, saying that over 16,000 Russian servicemen are performing their duties in hot beds of tension on our planet in the framework of a peace-keeping mission.

Lawmakers took into account appeals made by Russian Defence Ministry officials who pointed out that the law was a matter of vital importance. It was pointed out that Russia's participation in peace-keeping activities, connected with continuing instability in areas adjoining Russia's territory, and Russia's membership in the U.N. make it necessary to create a corresponding legal basis which does not exist at present.

The law, adopted in the first reading, determines the order, rights and duties of bodies of state power when resolving matters of sending military or civil contingents on peace-keeping missions outside the Russian federation.

Rybkin Said 'Most Influential Figure' in Duma

LD1603192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin was the most influential figure in the Russian parliament's lower chamber. His rating was 7.1 on a ten-point scale (slightly down from 8.0 points last January), experts of the Russian Federation's Political Research Center announced.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov ranks second—6.1 points compared to 5.7 points in January.

Third comes Vladimir Isakov, leader of the Agrarian Party—5.8 points compared to 3.7 in January.

Political scientists believe that the communists' and agrarians' strong position is due to the success of the political amnesty granted to the 1991 coup leaders and the organizers of the hardline revolt last October, initiated by them.

Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy ranks fourth—5.5 points compared to 6.9 last January. Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar went down from second place in January (6.4 points) to fifth—4.9 points.

Observers also point to a noticeable success of former minister of foreign economic relations Sergey Glazyev, who represents the Democratic Party of Russia. He ranked sixth in February, scoring 4.8 points (compared to 3.2 points in January). Experts explain his success by the fact that Glazyev had advanced his own economic program.

New Pro-Reform Deputy Group Created in Duma

MK1703083094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 1

[Yan Ulanskiy report under the "News From the Very Top" rubric: "New Group Created in State Duma"]

[Text] Valeriy Borshchev, chairman of the Russian Christian Democratic Union [RCDU], announced yesterday the creation in the State Duma of a new deputy group.

Joining the RCDU group today are six people, mainly from the Yabloko faction. It also has members of Russia's Choice, however, in particular Gleb Yakunin and Vitaliy Savitskiy. According to Borshchev, the RCDU group is not trying in any manner to effect a split in the democratic forces of the Duma. On the contrary, it will be trying to bring closer together the positions of Yabloko, Russia's Choice, and the Union of 12 December in a bid to create a single reformist bloc. A platform for such an association, Borshchev thinks, could be the results of voting on the political amnesty issue. KURANTY has already reported that the amnesty was not supported by all three factions.

Regional Affairs

Armed Men Enter Vladivostok Mayor's Office

ITAR-TASS Cited

OW1703081494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0806 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Armed men in military uniforms seized the mayor's office of the Russian far east port city of Vladivostok early Thursday [17 March], detaining Mayor Viktor Cherepkov, the ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY reported.

ITAR-TASS quoted the city's deputy mayor as saying he has appealed for help to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In a report monitored in Tokyo, ITAR-TASS also quoted the deputy mayor as saying, "there are no legitimate authorities in the city now."

The mayor's office identified the armed men in uniform as "elite OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] policemen," who reportedly were acting on instructions from the deputy governor of the maritime region.

The dispatch, without mentioning the identity of its source, carried a commentary saying the events resulted from a "protracted conflict between the mayor and the regional authorities."

The news agency again quoted the mayor's office, without naming the actual person who made the allegation, as saying that Cherepkov had a heart attack on Wednesday, prompting his doctors to urge him to stay in bed.

It said the alleged OMON police could not interrogate the mayor, while the mayor's lawyer was not allowed to meet his client.

Armed Attack Reported

LD1703091494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0726 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 17 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Early this morning an armed group of persons in military uniform seized the building of the town administration in Vladivostok. There is effectively no legitimite rule in the town, says a cable from the deputy head of administration of the town, received by ITAR-TASS.

The Vladivostok mayor's office is blockaded by OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] men who have been brought in by Lebedinets, vice governor of Maritime Kray. They are not allowing lawyer Ulitskiy to see the mayor, although Mayor Viktor Cherepkov has been detained, a report from the mayor's office of the town points out. The fact that yesterday the mayor had a serious heart attack is being ignored, and doctors who arrived in an ambulance have told him to stay in bed and have forbidden him being questioned.

Deputy Chief Appeals to President

LD1703091694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0801 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The deputy head of administration is requesting the Russian president, the head of government, the procurator general, the director of the federal counterintelligence service, and the chairman of the State Duma to take emergency measures.

Spokesman Comments on Attack

LD1703091894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Early this morning an armed group of people in military uniform seized the building of the city administration in Vladivostok. There is practically no legitimate authority in the city, it says in a telegram from the deputy head of the city's administration received by ITAR-TASS.

A person who did not wish to introduce himself as a spokesman for the administration of the President of Russia in Vladivostok reported the following:

[Begin recording of unidentified spokesman] The situation is not like that. It is simply that, in keeping with a decision of the procurator, the head of administration has been removed from his post in connection with the investigation into a criminal case. There were no armed people. The militia were involved, but in the main to ensure that order was maintained. A new head of administration has been appointed. [end recording]

At the present time, according to information from ITAR-TASS, the mayor's office in Vladivostok is blockaded by OMON who were brought by Lebedinets, acting governor of Maritime Kray. Viktor Cherepkov has been detained, it states in a report from the mayor's office in Vladivostok.

Mayor Faces Criminal Allegations

LD1703094394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 17 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Larisa Beloyvan and Eduard Popov]

[Text] Vladovostok March 17 TASS—Unrest has been sweeping Russia's Far Eastern city of Vladivostok for the second consecutive day. On Wednesday, armed riot police stormed the mayor's office and told Mayor Viktor Cherepkov and his closest aides they were dismissed from office. First Deputy Mayor Vladimir Gilgenberg, who put up resistance, was literally carried out of the building by police.

This was the second armed invasion of the city administration building. The first occupation occurred on the night from February 12-13, and was prompted, according to an official version, by the need to question Cherepkov on receiving a bribe from a certain Volkov. The mayor then remained at power thanks to public support.

On Wednesday, the Maritime territorial administration issued an order to topple Cherepkov, citing the documents supplied by the city prosecutor which say criminal proceedings are being established against Cherepkov under Article 170 (Part 3) of the Russian Criminal Code (bribe taking).

Territorial administration members Konstantin Tolstosheyn and Vasiliy Terekhov have been named acting mayor and his deputy. They had been Cherepkov's rivals in the mayor's elections, but flopped, scoring 1.5 percent votes between them.

Supporters of the toppled mayor, including a group of voters who nominated him to the territorial duma, have announced that Cherepkov's toppling was an act of open arbitrariness and a gross violation of human rights. They said they would hold acts of protest, up to fasting at the territorial administration building.

The first meeting of protest was held in Vladivostok on Thursday night.

Security Troops Remove Ex-Mayor

OW1703114194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 17 KYODO—Russian Security Ministry troops on Wednesday [16 March] night forcefully took away the former mayor of Vladivostok from his office in the municipal government building, Russian prosecutors said Thursday.

The ex-mayor Viktor Cherepkov was dismissed for alleged bribery, but had rejected to leave the office.

ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY earlier reported that Security Ministry troops had detained the mayor after taking over his office.

Cherepkov was indicted last month on a charge of taking a 3 million ruble payoff and an Omega wristwatch in exchange for providing favors to a man who was planning to increase business interests in the port city, said the prosecutors for the Russian Far East Maritime Region.

Cherepkov has persistently denied the charge of wrongdoing.

Following the indictment, he was stripped of his position until a Russian court hands down a ruling on the case.

During the one-month period, Cherepkov has defied the orders of a local court and prosecutors to vacate his office, and the purpose of the raid was to force him out, the prosecutors said.

The troops also dispersed many of Cherepkov's supporters who had gathered at the municipal government building, apparently fearing that security forces might try to break in.

New Opposition Movement Formed in Moscow

LD1603180294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1605 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] A group of prominent public and political leaders announced the creation of a new movement in Moscow today. It is called Accord for the Sake of Russia [Soglsiye vo imiya Rossii].

Its main tasks are to avert the final disintegration of the country, to halt the destruction of production capabilities, to protect the market and the national capital, and to prevent unemployment and hunger, allowing every citizen of the country to live at a proper subsistence level and in a dignified way.

Dmitriy Pinsker, our parliamentary correspondent, has asked the authors of today's appeal to the citizens of Russia to explain what the new movement is about.

[Begin Pinsker recording] The future belongs to this movement—it is a force which consolidates all patriotic parties and associations, Anatoliy Lukyanov told a correspondent from Ekho Moskvy. He stressed that he had taken part in the drafting of the appeal, but does not see any necessity as yet to sign it. Mikhail Lapshin, the leader of the Agrarian Party, thinks that the creation of the Accord for the Sake of Russia is not a step towards confrontation with the president but, on the contrary, a desire to achieve civic accord.

It should be noted that Vasiliy Lipitskiy, whose name is given as one of the founders, told an Ekho Moskvy

correspondent that it was the first time he heard of this movement, never mind his participation in it. [end recording]

Let me add that today's appeal to the citizens of Russia has been signed by Valeriy Zorkin, Gennadiy Zyuganov, Sergey Baburin, Aleksandr Prokhanov, Aleksandr Tsypko, Nikita Mikhalkov, and a number of others.

Kozyrev Visits Ship Prior to Christopher Meeting

OW1703085494 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 15 Mar 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, minister for foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, yesterday afternoon visited the Pacific Fleet's large antisubmarine ship, Admiral Panteleyev. Accompanied by Vice Admiral Igor Khmelnov, first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet, and Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of the Maritime Kray administration, the guest toured the ship and visited the navigation bridge.

Subsequently, the minister of foreign affairs went down to the ship's wardroom where officers and crew waited for him. In a short talk, the minister noted that the Russian Army and the fleet, like the country, are experiencing a difficult time. However, this is not the first time that this has happened in Russia and that is why the Navy must live through it appropriately; skillfully defend the fatherland; serve the Constitution; and carry out the president's orders. The Pacific Fleet is a great fleet and we will strengthen it, and we do not intend to divide the other fleets.

From the ship, Andrey Kozyrev, minister for foreign affairs, set out for Vladivostok Airport where he met Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, who had arrived for talks. After the talks, a short briefing was held for Russian and foreign journalists.

Staff 'Ready To Shut Down' Nuclear Power Station

PM1603160594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By V. Simonenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Staff at Kursk nuclear power station are threatening to go on hunger strike, boycott the oblast Duma elections, and cut off the current to the power lines and so cause problems in the unified power grid unless debts are paid off. The nuclear power industry workers are demanding that around 86 billion rubles owed for electricity already supplied and three-month wage arrears are paid. These demands have been sent to the Russian Government by a joint decision of the station's management board and labor collective councils. The deadline set for meeting these demands is 10 March. But even right now the total capacity of the station's four power units is down by 50 percent. Nuclear fuel reserves at the Kursk nuclear power station are running out. Suppliers are unwilling to deliver without payment. For the time being Kursk power station workers are working without pay. The station's safe and reliable operation is nonetheless guaranteed. Nuclear energy, even when used for peaceful purposes, must not be tinkered with. But staff are ready to shut down the station.

Moscow Military's Discipline Problems Discussed

PM1703094194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Oliynik: "Junior Officer Shortage.... Moscow Military District Military Council Examines State of Military Discipline in District"]

[Text] A report at the military council meeting was delivered by Lieutenant General Leonid Zolotov, the district's chief of staff. The figures and facts which he quoted can hardly be called reassuring. Over the past two years the number of people sentenced in the district for various military crimes has increased by 13 percent. Over the past year 82 servicemen have been killed, along with another 19 in the first two months of this year. Twenty-five of them died while not on duty, and another 18 died in car crashes in personal transport.

Nor has there been any reduction in the number of those who have embarked on the path of embezzling military property, weapons, and munitions. Last year 20 firearms and more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition—most of which have not been recovered—were stolen.

The district chief of staff noted that the main pernicious influences on the state of military discipline and law and order include the acute shortage of platoon and company commanders and their deputy commanders for work with the personnel. The district is currently 50 percent short of these categories of junior officers, and in certain units this figure is considerably higher. At the same time more than 500 mostly more senior officers have been in uniform for a long time now and are to all intents and purposes dealing with matters far removed from the service.

There are also problems with the discipline of contract servicemen. The command has been forced to cancel the contracts of 1,266 of the 7,360 soldiers and warrant officers serving in district units under contract. The reasons for this are indiscipline and low moral qualities. Colonel General Leontiy Kuznetsov, commander of the Moscow Military District, called on commanders and oblast military commissariat workers to be more discriminating in their selection of people for contract service.

Kostroma Election Results Reported

PM1603154594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Vakhrin: "They Have Elected Duma Deputies and Ruined Referendum"]

[Text] Kostroma—All 15 deputies' seats in the Kostroma Oblast Duma have been filled as a result of the elections held last Sunday. The present "generals" of executive power—two deputy governors, three heads of rural rayon administrations, and other officials—have gotten through in single formation.

The level of Kostroma voters' activeness was as a whole relatively high: According to preliminary figures at least 38 percent of voters took part in voting. It is true that the city inhabitants demonstrated no particular eagerness to make use of their legal right. That is why there was no referendum in Kostroma to approve the statute on local self-management. Incidentally, this statute, submitted by the mayor of Kostroma, Federation Council Deputy Boris korobov, markedly expanded the rights of the representative municipal organ compared with what was determined by the Russian president's edicts.

To determine the fate of this document, at least half of the voters should have gone to the polling stations.

Fishing Vessel Snags Submarine; Incident Denied

OW1703094094 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Report by Vladimir Kuchin; from the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Sergey Turkov, VESTI's correspondent for the Kamchatka Oblast, published an article which will surely interest all fishermen and naval seamen in the Far East basin. The seine fishing vessel Kamsuda III, belonging to a private company of the same name, was fishing for cod in the area of Asacha Bay, southeast of Kamchatka. About midday, the echo sounder indicated a large school of cod on an isobath of two hundred meters 10 miles from shore. It was decided to set the pair of seine. When the sweep was completed and retrieval of the half-kilometer seine lines began, something puzzling happened. The vessel stopped, then slowly began to reverse although the engines were on slow forward. At first it was thought the bottom had been snagged. However, the cables became taut, one of them snapping and the second beginning to feed out from the hold. The ship began to list to starboard.

The seamen on deck realized that something was not right and elected to seek shelter behind the deck structures out of harm's way. The captain could in no way understand the reason for what was going on, because in his many years of experience nothing like this had ever happened. All this occurred in the space of minutes. The conning tower of a nuclear-powered submarine emerged from the water literally a few meters from the vessel and just starboard of the seiner's stern, while the stern rudders of the submarine were port of the seiner's bow. That is, the submarine was directly beneath the vessel.

While the stunned crew was gathering its wits, the submarine disappeared in a northerly direction, dragging off with it the pair of seine and two and a half kilometers of cable, leaving the trawler without fishing gear or cable. The damage caused by the nuclear submarine was approximately 20 million rubles, not taking into account lost profits and valuable fishing days. The seiner was fishing in an authorized area, and there was no advice on any closure of the area. The captain immediately reported the incident to the expedition chief aboard the BMRT [large refrigerated fishing trawler] Tselihar and headed for port. Of course, there was nothing left to fish with.

On arriving in port, the sailor who was handling the cable in the hold and miraculously remained alive after the capture of the submarine, immediately signed off the vessel. When the VESTI correspondent arrived aboard the vessel he encountered Captain Second Rank Gritsay, Kamchatka Naval Flotilla's assistant flag navigation officer. Gritsay calmed the correspondent by saying nothing happened, and that the vessel simply snagged bottom; none of this was connected with any submarines. However, the submarine—which had returned to port—was supposedly merely carrying out its combat mission. When the author of this report expressed his interest as to why such a high-ranking military chief was aboard such a humble seiner, the captain second class replied he was simply visiting an old friend. Meanwhile, the seiner's captain involved in the incident was intensely writing explanatory notes and making extracts from the ship's logs.

I will add that this is the second occasion in which a submarine was caught off Kamchatka. In 1976 the medium refrigerated fishing trawler Som, belonging to the Kamchatrybkolkhozobyedineniye fishing fleet department—presently called the Akros Company—caught a submarine in an authorized fishing area.

International Affairs

Russian Nuclear Fuel, Warheads Withdrawal 'Unrelated'

LD1603143694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] A high-ranking official from the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear Energy, Viktor Stovbun, has told INTERFAX-Ukraine that Moscow's shipments of nuclear fuel for Ukrainian nuclear power stations are unrelated to the withdrawal of warheads.

He said the supplies are provided for by an agreement between the State Committee and the Russian TVEL corporation signed at the end of last year. Ukraine paid 6.79 Bn rubles for the fuel immediately.

According to Stovbun, at the end of last year the capacity of the Chernobyl nuclear power station had to be cut down due to fuel shortages, but at the end of February the State Committee purchased Russian fuel for a quarter of a year. At the beginning of 1994 Ukraine received the first batch of nuclear fuel.

At the same time Kiev has drawn attention to the fact that Russia has not signed an agreement on fuel supplies to Ukraine in exchange for the withdrawal of nuclear warheads from its territory which is provided for by the treaty between Russia, Ukraine and the USA. The Ukrainian vice-premier Valeriy Shmarov has told INTERFAX that they only received a letter from Viktor Chernomyrdin in which the Russian side pledged to begin shipments this month.

The State Committee believes that as Ukraine has a sufficient number of nuclear installations, it would be more profitable to develop the production of nuclear fuel in the country itself than import it. In this connection the State Committee is preparing for an international tender of technology for the production of nuclear fuel.

Kravchuk, Estonia's Meri Sign Cooperation Accords

LD1603132094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1207 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 16 Mar—Estonian President Lennart Meri's delegation and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and government officials have held official meetings and negotiations. Regarding the results of the negotiations, the sides signed agreements on international and cultural cooperation. Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and Culture Minister Ivan Dzyuba took part in the signing ceremony.

The Estonian president also met the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman [Ivan Plyushch]. Ivan Plyushch emphasized the timeliness of the Estonian president's visit, as Ukraine is currently at the stage of establishing new international relations and the world's attitude toward Ukraine is improving.

Kravchuk Meets With Nixon, Discusses 'Wide Range' of Issues

WS1603160694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk met today with former U.S. President Richard Nixon at the latter's request. The former head of the White House is on a private visit to Kiev. During a one-hour conversation, the two men discussed a wide range of political and economic issues, questions related to developing bilateral ties, and relations with Russia.

Stresses Need for 'Solid Investments'

LD1603191294 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1537 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 16 Mar—Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk today received former U.S. President Richard Nixon who is on a private visit to Ukraine. A whole range of issues, touching upon the development of Ukrainian-U.S. relations, were discussed during the conversation. In particular, the possibilities and specific ways of attracting U.S. private capital in Ukraine's economy were discussed. Leonid Kravchuk informed the guest about the political and economic situation in Ukraine and about the progress of the reform. He pointed out that no matter what credits are granted by foreign countries, Ukraine's economy cannot be revived without solid investments. For its part, Ukraine will do everything possible to create the necessary conditions for the protection of investments, emphasized the president. Ukraine's legislation, too, serves this purpose.

Richard Nixon extended Leonid Kravchuk the best wishes from U.S. President Bill Clinton. He highly assessed the results of the recent visit by the president of Ukraine to the United States and the agreements achieved in the course of the visit.

The United States attributes great importance to relations with Ukraine and to the consolidation of its independence and regards it as a good partner in various spheres, emphasized Richard Nixon. I arrived in Ukraine to obtain, so to say, first-hand information about the situation in your country and to report on everything I saw and heard here to Bill Clinton upon my return to the United States.

Leonid Kravchuk asked Richard Nixon to give his best wishes to U.S. President Bill Clinton and declared that he recalls his visit to the United States and his meetings with the U.S. President with great pleasure.

Rebels Seize Black Sea Fleet Hospital

LD1503170794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] According to sources in the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters, Ukrainian servicemen seized the Black Sea Fleet's hospital in Ochakov (Ukraine's Nikolayev Region) on 14 March.

Ukrainian submachine-gunners do not allow medical personnel in, if the latter refuse to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

Hospital workers said that Major Shevchenko of the Ukrainian armed forces had presented them an ultimatum in accordance with which they must either serve in the Ukrainian Armed Forces or will lose their jobs.

A high-ranking representative of the Black Sea Fleet, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that earlier this year Ukrainian submachine-gunners had seized the military hospital in Nikolayev. Special forces were involved.

The same source announced that the Black Sea Command qualified those actions as "actions carried out by uncontrolled bandit formations, because the Ukrainian Defense Ministry did not inform the Black Sea Command of its plans to resubordinate the Black Sea Fleet's establishments and units."

He stated that if such unilateral actions were repeated, the Black Sea Fleet personnel would be given the order to use arms to rebuff them.

Navy Denies 'Seizure'

LD1603230094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] As UKRINFORM's correspondent in Sevastopol, Crimea, reported on Wednesday [16 March] the Ukrainian Navy's press center refuted a report by the Black Sea Fleet's press center about an alleged seizure by the Ukrainian naval personnel of a naval hospital in Ochakov. As the Ukrainian statement says, the hospital's personnel took an oath of allegiance to Ukraine and appealed to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and Navy command to enroll them as the Ukrainian Navy servicemen. Since then, the hospital has been strictly guarded, as when a similar situation evolved once in Nikolayev. The Black Sea Fleet command attempted to take away medical equipment and drugs from the local naval hospital, the statement explains.

Press Explains Incident

WS1603110194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] According to a report by the Ukrainian Navy press center, officers and more than 20 servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet's hospital in Ochakiv have asked the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the Ukrainian Navy command to enroll them in the Ukrainian Armed Forces. They have recently taken an oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people. The hospital staff explained that their decision was based on the fact that they are all Ukrainian citizens, and that they were tired of being hostages to circumstances, and to feeling the constant psychological pressure caused by the uncertainty of their fate. To prevent property and equipment from being taken away from the hospital, additional security was deployed during the oath. The press center report also notes that the command of the Black Sea Fleet Ochakiv Division failed to convince the officers to change their decision.

Radetskyy's Assertions on NATO Standards Questioned

WS1603162994 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 4 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Ivan Vorotynskyy: "Minister Radetskyy Is at the Crossroads: Should We Go to NATO or to the Bath House?"]

[Text] Speaking at the flag-raising ceremony for the antisubmarine ship "Lutsk" in Sevastopol, Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy said: "The Ukrainian Armed Forces are equipped well enough to be an equal partner with NATO." Jumping on the bandwagon has become a habit of the minister. Well, more power to him. However, there is more wind in the pockets than in the sails.

Studying the reconstruction potential of the Armed Forces from the small Czech Republic, independent Western experts concluded that even if 80 percent of the military budget was spent on this purpose, the restructuring would require at least 12 years. Polish specialists estimated that to reach the armament level of the German and U.S. Armies, the Polish Army would have to receive 10 percent of the state budget for 20 years.

For Ukraine, NATO is also an example of how to resolve the problem of unification of weapons and military equipment. The huge military industrial complex in Ukraine needs to be phased out because its production used to be oriented toward former Warsaw Pact countries. A new complex will take decades and huge expenses to establish. Let alone the fact that Ukraine has a range of military plants (the Lvov Radio and Television Equipment Amalgamation, the Dniepropetrovsk Rocket Plant, and Mariupol Ship Yard), whose products are even better than their NATO equivalents, such as the T80-M tank manufactured in Kharkov. Besides, Ukraine risks losing its niche on the arms market, which presently brings substantial profits to the state treasury. The "Partnership for Peace" has its social aspect in Ukraine as millions of people employed in the defense industry will be thrown out onto the street.

It does not take a military expert to understand that achieving NATO standards will demand changes in microelectronics, computers, optical equipment, radio

electronics, and electronic surveillance. The AWACS digital communication systems, satellite meteorologic system, satellite system of strategic communications, integrated radiolocation system of intelligence and weapons management—they are all part of NATO's equipment. Perhaps Defense Minister Radetskyy had in mind not the global problems of the "Partnership for Peace," but joint military exercises and maneuvers. But who will pay for all of this? Is the Ukrainian economy able to sustain even just a company exercise with NATO, let alone make preparations to become an "equal partner?" Last year, the Ukrainian Army did not hold a single exercise on the regimental level. At a meeting with officers from the Ivano-Frankovsk Garrison, Vitaliy Radetskyy complained that instead of resolving combat readiness issues, he is forced to think how to provide people with food and where he can get money for personnel to bathe in the bath house. The experience of joint Russian-U.S. exercises shows that in six to seven months, the Armies managed to prepare only a small military parade involving 250 servicemen on both sides.

According to one source of leaked information, NATO is going to earmark $10-$30 million annually for the "Partnership for Peace," which is, at best, some $1 million for cooperation with each member country. For Ukraine, the "Partnership" will cost at least $1 million. As usual, it is the people that will take most of the burden—even though Ukraine should hardly expect that this much-vaunted program will secure military security guarantees for our state.

Radetskyy Visits Romania, Meets With State Leaders

WS1703093294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Yesterday, a Ukrainian military delegation headed by Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy visited Constanta, where they met with Vice Admiral George Antonescu, chief of the Romanian Navy Joint Chiefs of Staff. They also visited the torpedo boat [word indistinct] and the Navy Academy.

After returning to Bucharest, Vitaliy Radetskyy met with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu. In the course of the conversation, the sides emphasized the contribution that both countries can make in strengthening security and stability in the region that is currently experiencing difficulties.

The Ukrainian defense minister was received by Romanian President Ion Iliescu. During their talks, a mutual desire to develop Romanian-Ukrainian relations in the interests of both countries and people was emphasized.

Commentary Accuses Russia of Abusing Gas Supplies Issue

AU1603152094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Mar 94 p 2

[Commentary by Serhiy Lavrenyuk: "Our Nuclear Weapons Are Already Gone. We May Also Be Deprived of Gas Pipelines"]

[Text] As we already reported, a Ukrainian Government delegation headed by Vice Prime Minister V. Landyk held negotiations in Moscow with representatives of the Russian "Gazprom" [Gas Industry] Joint Stock Association on gas supplies to Ukraine. According to the Russian side, Ukraine owes the "Gazprom" more than 1.5 trillion rubles [R] and, for that reason, the joint stock association adopted a decision to suspend the supplies of gas to our state if the debt is not repaid. However, as the gas pipelines run through the territory of Ukraine, Russia has been accusing the "Ukrgazprom" [Ukrainian gas industry] of regularly pumping out more than 40 million cubic meters of gas a day from the quantity of gas intended for Western Europe. As is known, Ukraine previously signed an agreement with Russia in accordance with which Ukraine took it upon itself to ensure the transit of 111.5 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to Western Europe. Russia, in turn, promised to supply to Ukraine between 50 and 70 billion cubic meters of gas.

However, the situation developed in such a way that Russia's pressure failed to affect Ukraine, because, by reducing gas supplies to our state, the joint stock association would also automatically reduce supplies to its European customers. In this way, Ukraine might try and reach an accord that would be most advantageous for it, as more than 90 percent of Russian gas is exported to Western Europe via Ukraine. In other words, Ukraine had an opportunity to dictate its own terms since Russia would hardly risk halting gas supplies, otherwise, this action would have primarily hit the "Gazprom." This is even more true since, in the opinion of specialists, gas reserves stored in underground reservoirs enable Ukraine to endure, without great difficulties, even full discontinuance of gas supplies for one month.

Russia, taking care of its own strategic interests, did not remain idle either. Back in September 1993, when Ukraine's debt reached R750 billion and the volume of gas supplied to Ukraine was reduced from 220 million cubic meters a day to 50 million, in order to test Ukraine's seriousness the "Gazprom" Joint-Stock Association made the proposal that Ukraine lease to the joint-stock association on a long-term basis some of Ukraine's gas-processing and gas transporting enterprises. Among them, the Russian side wanted to see gas supply depots in Kiev, Uzhhorod, and Nikolayev, underground gas reservoirs in western Ukraine, and mooring lines and port structures in Odessa and Illichevsk. The seriousness of the "Gazprom" intentions was also attested to by the fact that the association reacted extremely negatively to the proposal that the cost of

nuclear weapons be compensated for by Ukraine by canceling its debt for energy sources, primarily natural gas. The reasons given were that "Gazprom" has its "major" interests in Ukraine.

Some of the results may be quoted. The negotiations ended in Russia's agreeing to resume gas supplies to Ukraine in full extent. Russia will also compensate for the 80-percent reduction in the supplies of Turkmenian gas. Ukraine, in turn, promises to repay, within one month, its debts for this year's gas supplies with Russian rubles and freely convertible currency and last year's debts—both with money and equipment for the gas extraction industry. Besides, during the meeting, accords were reached on joint ownership of gas pipelines and underground gas reservoirs. The share of the "Gazprom" is to be determined during the next meeting, which will be held on 10 April. Thus, as one can see, Russia is steadily heading toward its goal: To take into its (although partial) ownership, gas pipelines and gas reservoirs and do anything it wants with Ukrainian gas consumers.

Gas Supply Problems Detailed

WS1503123094 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1551 GMT 14 Mar 94

["The Clue to Ukraine's Gas Procurement Problem Appears To Be in the Domain of Politics"—UKRINFORM headline from the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 11, 7-13 Mar 94]

[Text] According to the Ukrgazprom concern, Russia's Gazprom joint-stock association supplied 1,280.1 million cu. m. [cubic meters] of natural gas to Ukraine between 1 and 10 March 1994, which was even more than the planned amount (by 128.1 million cu. m.)

Obviously, Gazprom's statement about its alleged intention to drastically curtail Russian natural gas supplies to Ukraine, which was widely circulated by the media, cried wolf.

In the meantime, on 10 March Moscow was the venue of negotiations between Russia's Gazprom and a Ukrainian government delegation led by vice-premier Valentin Landik on the sensitive issue of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine.

The crucial negotiations resulted in an articulated agreement on Russian gas supply resumption in full. The Russian side went even further to state its intention to supply about 80 per cent of natural gas, which Ukraine used to receive from Turkmenistan or would have received from there has it not been for the Central Asian nation's decision to discontinue its natural gas supplies to Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian vice-premier, a protocol was signed in Moscow, under which the two parties pledged to arrange their account settling within a month. Ukraine's gas indebtedness for the 1994, first quarter's supplies will be repaid via monetary means. 1993's indebtedness (which, as Gazprom's spokepersons maintain, exceeds 1.5 trillion rubles) is to be repaid, in 50 per cent parts, in hard currency and Russian rubles, and via equipment and material supplies to Russian natural gas extractors.

Russia's statements, blaming Ukraine for allegedly curtailed natural gas supplies to Russia's West European customers in late January and early February, perhaps, should also be taken with a grain of salt. In real fact, precisely at that time, Russia's Gazprom attempted to make its West European clients, primarily Germany, pay higher prices for its gas through curtailed gas exports on its own.

According to Ukrgazprom, the Russian exporter curtailed gas supplies in a most drastic manner to Germany, Bulgaria, Turkey and Hungary.

Russian natural gas transit across Ukraine's territory in January and February, 1994 could be characterized by the following data:

	January		February	
	Factual Supplies	In excess of plants (+) undersupplied amount (-)	Factual Supplies	In excess of plants (+) undersupplied amounts (-)
	(million cu. m.)		(million cu. m.)	
Czechia, Slovakia, Germany	7,030.5	+13.5	5,670.7	-237.3
Yugoslavia, (France, Austria), Poland	228.0	-123.0	222.0	-46.8
Romania	464.5	+67.5	372.7	+14.3
Bulgaria, Turkey	947.0	-161.0	851.2	-254.8
Hungary	498.9	-188.0	451.3	-187.1

Though none of Ukrgazprom officials chose to assume responsibility of making a statement to refute accusations against Ukraine of allegedly using Russian gas intended for exports to West Europe, which were circulated by Russia's and Hungary's media, such accusations provided grounds to Russia to lay the blame for natural gas undersupplies to West Europe at Ukraine's door.

Nonetheless, during a meeting on 11 March with Hungarian President A. Genz Ukraine's Ambassador to Hungary D. Tkach assured him, on behalf of the Ukrainian State Committee for oil and gas, to which Ukrgazprom is immediately reportable, that Ukraine would unswervingly comply with its natural gas transit commitments.

As it also became known, the Ukrainian side agreed to consider the issue of allowing Russia to jointly own some of Ukraine's major pipe-lines and underground gas storages, which will be negotiated at a bilateral Russo-Ukrainian meeting on 10 April.

In view of the upcoming process of transforming state-owned enterprises within Ukraine's petroleum-gas complex into joint-stock societies (which is expected to start, when President Kravchuk signs the draft decree "On procedures for preparing for selling stocks of open-type joint-stock societies established through corporatization") the Russian side's demand may be met quite legitimately through acquisition by Russian enterprises of Ukrgazprom's stocks.

However, Russia's joint ownership of Ukraine's pipeline network and underground reservoirs will require a decision by the government, since, according to the endorsed documents for Ukrgazprom's corporatization, both the gas transport network and underground storages should remain the state's property.

Russia's access to Ukraine's gas pipe-line system as the latter's co-owner, personified by Gazprom, is supposed to guarantee security of Russian natural gas supplies to West Europe, since Ukraine will not be in a position to unilaterally pump out the exported raw material for its own needs should supplies to Ukraine be curtailed.

More likely than not, in case the scheme materializes, Russia will be able to quite legally shift a part of responsibility for any undersupplies likely to happen to Ukraine. Presently, the declared by Russia curtailment of natural gas supplies to Ukraine is technically very hard to verify.

Moreover, the Ukrainian party will become legally liable before Russian natural gas buyers and very unlikely to dictate its charges for transit services.

No reliable and exact data are currently available about what facilities may be turned over to Russia. Yet, back in September 1993, when Ukraine's fuel indebtedness to Russia reached the ball park of 750 billion rubles, Gazprom ventilated long-term lease of certain facilities in Ukraine as a minimal and partial redemption of the debt. These reportedly included gas supply depots in Kiev, Uzhgorod, Nikolaev, underground gas storages in Ukraine's border regions, as well as port facilities in Odessa and Ilyichevsk.

Russia's Gazprom is also known to have vigorously opposed a plan, which provided for repayment of a part of Ukraine's fuel debt to Russia by means of nuclear weapons, dismantled in Ukraine and transferred to Russia.

However, on 17 January 1994, when an agreement was reached on gas supplies to Ukraine, Gazprom pledged to keep to this schedule of supplies: 10.3 b. cu. m. in the 1st quarter, 15.6 b. cu. m. in the 2nd quarter, 18.2 b. cu. m. in the 3d quarter, and 7.8 b. cu. m. in the last quarter of 1994. As Ukrainian gas officials maintain, the schedule is not very convenient for Ukraine, in technological terms.

Proceeding from data, regularly published by UBN [UKRINFORM Business News], the latest agreements on the parties' obligations Gazprom appears intent on shrinking to the agreed supply schedule.

Reductions in total gas import amounts due to supply discontinuance by Turkmenistan were not so critical as to make the situation a crisis one, Taras Freyuk, Ukrgaz deputy chief asserts. Moreover, a spell of warm weather, which has recently set in, allows to radically reduce natural gas consumption by housing and public utilities, which normally account for about a third of the nation's total natural gas consumption.

As statistical data suggest, a one-degree drop in temperature entails extraconsumption of 4.5 million cu. m. of gas Ukraine-wide. According to T. Freyuk, daily gas consumption by the above sector dropped by 100 million cu. m.

All-in-all, during the 1-10 March period Ukraine's gas consumption amounted to 2,983.6 million cu. m., according to Ukrgazprom sources, which was by 520.4 million cu. m. less than expected.

Only debtor enterprises among Ukraine's over 80,000 enterprises were hit by curtailed gas supplies. Many of enterprises shifted to alternative fuels, such as oil fuel, if their technological processes allowed to do so.

However, as T. Freyuk maintains, Ukraine's domestic payment crisis remains a major challenge. The gas supply problem would be automatically resolved, were it not for the consumer-enterprises' untimely payments for fuels supplied to them.

According to both Ukrgazprom and Ukrgaz spokespersons, many debtor enterprises start repaying their debts only after gas supplies to them are curtailed and they are notified about imminent supply suspension.

State-budgeted enterprises, including those of the housing and public amenities sector, are entitled to continuous gas supplies, though.

So far, Turkmen natural gas supplies have not resumed after they were discontinued on 22 February 1994 by the Turkmen government's decision in view of Ukraine's indebtedness.

According to formation, which was disclosed by Ukrgazprom's operational and dispatching service sources; not a single cu. m. of Turkmen natural gas has reached Ukraine since then. The issue of Turkmen gas supply resumption remains thus suspended.

Ukrgazprom's spokespersons refused to confirm information about Turkmenistan's official statement to the effect of its intention to sell its gas to Russia, should Ukraine fail to comply with Turkmenistan's terms, and Russia likely to resell it then to Ukraine, at a much higher price. Turkmen natural gas was priced at 50 US dollars per 1,000 cu. m.

Nonetheless, such a decision by Turkmenistan appears to be a likely one, considering Russia's agreement to supply 80 per cent of the amount, which Turkmenistan earlier undertook to supply to Ukraine. The price and duration issue with regard to these supplies has not been settled yet.

As Andrew Marshall, a participant in the current session of the European Parliament, tends to believe, Russia played a trump card with Turkmenistan both to bring pressure to bear on Ukraine's and demonstrate its prestige and significance in the East-European region.

Pedalling Ukraine's gas supply challenge has also spurred the USA to increase its aid to Ukraine and prompted Britain to offers its go-between services in a bid to muster support from international financial institutions and elicit credits to Ukraine to repay its fuel debt to Russia.

So, it is Russia, who appears primarily to benefit from this problem's shift from the field of economics to the domain of politics, and very likely to have gains in both.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Reverses Meshkov Decision on Referendum

LD1603153094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk, president of the Ukraine, has reversed a decision taken by Yuriy Meshkov, president of Crimea, to ask Crimeans about its position with regard to the Ukraine. This decision has been qualified as being contrary to the Ukrainian constitution and laws.

Blames 'Complications' on Meshkov

WS1603210394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] To begin one's activity in the position of Crimean president by violating the Ukrainian Constitution is a challenge to democracy. This was said by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at a meeting with Ukrainian and foreign journalists today in Kiev. He characterized the actions by Yuriy Meshkov as contradictory to the basic law of our state. At the same time, Leonid Kravchuk reiterated that during his personal meeting with the Crimean president, he proposed to the latter that they hold close contacts and take preliminary steps to sort things out in Crimea. Meshkov, however, claims that the president of Ukraine did not adhere to the agreements, and issued an edict on holding a referendum. By the way, even the autonomous Central Election Commission expressed hope that he would bring the documents in line with Crimean legislation. All responsibility for any possible complications will fall upon Mr. Meshkov, stressed Leonid Kravchuk.

Crimean Leader Says Referendum To Be Held Despite Ban

LD1603180894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The Crimean referendum on relations with Ukraine scheduled for 27 March will be held despite Kiev's ban, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk issued a decree late on Tuesday [15 March] to ban the Crimean poll because of its being out of line with the Ukrainian Constitution and laws.

The Crimean referendum ordered by Meshkov is designed to elicit an answer to two questions. One is on relations between Simferopol and Kiev and the other on dual citizenship.

Meshkov said that such questions "are to be decided locally and not by Kiev" warning against attempts to try to deprive the public of its right to freedom of expression.

He said that an administrative ban was an on-off affair because the referendum issue might resurface within a week or a month again.

"There is a body of opinion which Kiev may find more useful to know of than Simferopol", Meshkov said adding that he saw no reason for further discussion on that score.

Crimea Economic Problems Analyzed

944K0877A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Candidate of Technical Sciences A.S. Golovizin, general director of the "Partner" Crimean association for economic cooperation and chairman of the Economic Council of the Union of Entrepreneurs of the Crimean Republic, by V. Savchenko; place and date not given: "How Long Will We Continue To Operate Outside the Law?"]

[Text] A day hardly goes by now when there is not a report in the newspaper, or over radio and television, on the shutdown of one enterprise or another, on energy

supply problems, or on failure to make payments. Things are bad everywhere in industry, in agriculture, and in the business structures engaged in production. They are very bad. How can we overcome this crisis in the economy? Is it not time to stop destroying our production? These and other questions disturb Candidate of Technical Sciences A.S. Golovizin, general director of the "Partner" Crimean association for economic cooperation and chairman of the Economic Council of the Union of Entrepreneurs of the Crimean Republic, who speaks with us today.

[Golovizin] When you analyze crisis situations in other countries, you see that the one thing that survives is transnational companies—which have a diversified structure of production and trade, and powerful investments in scientific development. But we, unfortunately, in essence primarily a transnational company, have initiated the destruction of all economic ties with partners in the former USSR.

[Savchenko] But this is not the only factor that led to the collapse of the economy.

[Golovizin] Yes. The state also failed to concern itself with drawing up state orders. Whereas in the West a powerful struggle ensues to obtain these, up to and including bribing members of the parliament, we have no experience at all in incorporating them. Having declared that it would pursue the option of defense industry conversion, the state should have determined priority programs, presented them on a competitive basis as state orders among enterprises, allocated financing on preferential terms for production development, and afforded tax privileges, and as they say, move on from there. But nothing of the kind took place either in Ukraine or in Russia.

We have reached the point today when 70 percent, on the average, of the equipment at enterprises is physically worn out, and a full 90 percent are obsolete; and no efforts are under way to replace it. We see a degradation of our entire production.

Following in Russia's footsteps, Ukraine repeated its serious mistake and announced the liberalization of prices under conditions of deeply entrenched monopolism. Everyone is now getting a personal sense of what this alienation of the state from price regulation has brought about. Incidentally, not one recognized economist in the West suggested that we carry out such proposals.

[Savchenko] Also characteristic of Ukraine is the fiscal system of taxation. Crimean producers have been screaming about this for the past two years, but, alas, no one is listening.

[Golovizin] In a speech that I delivered before the Third Ukrainian Congress of Entrepreneurs, attended by the president and the deputy prime minister, I stated that the Government of Ukraine was the chief racketeer in Ukraine, the state racketeer. Under the present system of taxation, it is at times necessary, for every ruble of trade production output, to hand over 1.6 in the form of taxes. Where else do you see that? And this is happening at a time when our wage standards have dropped significantly, although you constantly hear it said that reforms are being conducted for the benefit of the individual, for the sake of improving his life, done for his benefit, while actual results show that the individual is becoming impoverished, plants are shutting down, production is being curtailed, and incomes are diminishing.

[Savchenko] The system of taxation has also hit entrepreneurial structures quite hard. Where have the stock exchanges gone, for example?

[Golovizin] In 1991 we saw a boom in their establishment. There were 76 of them in Ukraine, 15 in Crimea. But on 10 February 1992, the parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law on Taxation, which prescribes that income obtained from stock exchange activity is subject to tax at a rate of 75 percent. So you complete a transaction for R1,000 [rubles], but all you have left is 15—the state collects the rest. Therefore, all the stock exchanges virtually died. We continue to say that they are lying on the bottom, like a ship that has suffered colossal damage.

Knowing, however, that not a single state with any economy can survive without a stock exchange, we have now decided to join the Crimean Universal Stock Exchange with the Agricultural Stock Exchange and begin operations. This is how we are thinking about getting around the system of taxation.

Can it possibly be a victory for the state when it forces the stock exchanges and other entrepreneurs to withdraw into a shadow economy? After all, we know that something on the order of 12 trillion karbovantsy are in cash circulation right now. This money does not go through the banks or help augment the budget. It is corrupting businessmen and contributing toward the emergence of racketeering.

[Savchenko] Instead of civilized trade on the stock exchange, we now have a middleman.

[Golovizin] It is easy to find someone for a soft job. Thanks to the middlemen who purchase commodities two, three, and four times from one another, the commodity goes up 1.5- or 2-fold in price. I am convinced that if we return the stock exchange and wholesale purchase bases to a civilized course and afford them low-interest credit, the standard of living of the populace will rise tomorrow. There will be a sharp drop in prices. And the middlemen will go back to civilized work. Today many people say they do not want to work on the edge of violating the law, but otherwise they have to eat bread crumbs.

[Savchenko] How do you feel about the introduction in Crimea of the system of an open economy?

[Golovizin] With its available potential, Crimea has to be an international business center. It is situated at a crossroads—of trade, political, cultural, and spiritual paths. This is a unique position. In the West they determine the optimal zone of economic relations using a compass. They draw a circle with radius of 600 km. Some 22 independent, highly developed states find themselves neighbors with Crimea in such a circle. Where else in the world could you find such a unique position?

[Savchenko] What is the best possible thing for our structures of authority and entrepreneurial structures to do?

[Golovizin] They must enter into direct ties with other states, including Russia, create joint enterprises, and act more boldly. Here in Crimea we have all the conditions for establishment of a business center, including suitable buildings that could house the headquarters for economic reform of Crimea. Here we must attract the entire scientific potential of the republic.

[Savchenko] All possible kinds of funds and joint-stock companies have recently been sprouting up everywhere. Readers are constantly asking: "Can they be trusted?" How do you answer them?

[Golovizin] There is not a single fund, not a single joint-stock company advertising itself in the newspapers or on television that carries out its main practical functions. Stockholders do not know what kind of charter fund they have, how accumulation of funds takes place, in what specific undertaking funds are invested, or what safeguards are in place. On the other hand, "the guys" are very good at manipulating money while having nothing to do with the production that results in accumulation of the country's basic wealth.

[Savchenko] We will soon elect a new parliament. What should be the starting point of its work?

[Golovizin] It should start by adopting three laws: one on the credit and finance system, one on the budget of Crimea, and another on taxation. This is the basis of development of the economy. When this is done, we will be able to stand on our feet and move forward rapidly.

Security Chief on Crimean Issue

LD1703011094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] [Word indistinct] one can assert that there are two problems of prime concern for the current leadership of Ukraine. The first is the economic situation and the second is the problem of regional separatism; and Crimea is a kind of a symbol of this separatism. We would like to remind you that such a hot spot does exist now. And we think that it will be interesting for you, dear listeners, to hear the opinion of the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, Yevhen Marchuk, about the political situation in Crimea.

[Begin Marchuk recording] The Crimean problem, the problem of regionalization as a whole, threatens decentralization of the state. This is one of those threats that today occupies one of the leading places in the hierarchy of threats to national security in Ukraine. This is due to a number of reasons: historical, economic, ethnic, etc. Crimea, as a problem, concentrated one of the elements of this threat. Although, at the same time, I would not dramatize the situation in Crimea as reminiscent of some Yugoslav variant. Nothing like this will happen here because the situation is absolutely different and there are enough forces and those necessary to prevent the Yugoslav variant from happening. Nothing like this will happen here, but at the same time, a whole number of political forces in Crimea, parties and movements, which are carrying out propaganda activity, are doing this—as a matter of fact, to the detriment of Ukraine's interests. But I emphasize that political propaganda activity, which political structures and separate leaders who create this atmosphere are engaged in, is one thing; it cannot be viewed now from the point of view of the Criminal Code. This is why the methods to be applied to this phenomena should be of relevant nature—first and foremost, political. Any propaganda should be countered by antipropaganda: more effective, more reasonable, more understandable and so on. And the methods of propaganda itself. [as heard] And, possibly, being aware of the patriotic sentiments of some people's deputies, their desire to improve somehow the situation in Crimea... [pauses]. But with some of their actions and even visits they, unfortunately, were aggravating the situation instead of easing it.

We are doing what the special services should do, and this is under relevant control. We have been doing something. I cannot dwell on this in public but this is within the framework of the Ukrainian laws. We have made our contribution. Probably it is not as ponderable as we would like it to be, but this is a different thing. However, I am absolutely convinced that it is only by means of a centralized, sufficiently considered, strategically calculated domestic nationalities policy in relation to all regions—Donbass, Transcarpathia, Bukovina, and not only Crimea—that we shall be able to neutralize and solve such problems in a timely, quiet, and civilized manner. Naturally, the security service, the prosecutor's office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, etc. should be assigned corresponding roles in this. However, personally I am for neutralizing such phenomena by political methods involving special services in this work within the framework of the law.

If 1.2 million people have such sentiments, this is already a policy. One person speaking does not shape a policy. But when more than 1.2 million people speak, this is a policy and this means that it is necessary to examine and analyze rather seriously what blunders were made in the internal nationalities policy. Although, I know that at present both the new Crimean administration, which has become confronted with everyday economic problems... [changes thought]. Now it pays little

attention if any at all to rallying because it has to solve specific economic issues daily.

Ukraine—I have in mind Kiev—gave rather a good example when the Crimean delegation, the economic delegation of the Council of Ministers of Crimea, was here, when it was working at the Cabinet of Ministers. They were working up issues pertaining to the Crimean budget and correlation between the state and the Crimean, i.e. all-Ukrainian and Crimean aspects of the budget and also issues pertaining to the property of Crimea and Ukraine. Then Ukraine gave rather a good example of tolerance and at the same time of a firm policy of principle in relation to Crimea: Crimea is part of Ukraine and there is no other option and no one can comment on this off-handedly, but at the same time all the aspects of the economic activity for which the Crimean leadership is now responsible, were shifted entirely to the Crimean leadership's shoulders, as they say. Therefore, where there is the Crimean budget they must administer it themselves, and where there is the state budget, this is the state budget.

And it was rather interesting to observe how.... [pauses] From the human point of view it was clear why the Crimean delegation representatives were raising the question that money would be needed for this and for that. The problems they were bringing up were correct. But then they were asked the following question: These problems, in compliance with the delimitation of plenary powers, are they Crimean problems or all-Ukrainian ones? Generally speaking, they are Crimean problems. In this case you have your Crimean budget. Our budget is also bearly alive, as they say. So, it is your responsibility, this is the burden of the state activity when it is necessary to balance, to find relevant solutions within the framework of the allocated budget.

If there is a calm but far-sighted internal nationalities policy, and it is being worked up at present, if there is a calm economic policy Crimea-Ukraine and Crimea in Ukraine as well as Ukraine-foreign countries and Crimea-foreign countries via Ukraine, and if there is an improvement of the economy as a whole in the state, I am absolutely convinced that very many issues pertaining to the Crimean situation will be removed.

No matter how paradoxical this is, at present, the situation in the Crimea, from the point of view of the aggravation of the situation, is much calmer than it was two months ago, because much has been implemented there as far as political aspects are concerned, and then [word indistinct] problems. And now the president of Crimea, his experts and the Council of Ministers of Crimea have to tackle the issues which discipline them.

To wind up my personal vision of the developments in the Crimea, the situation will not be simple, because there are political structures in Russia, and not even Zhirinovskiy or anybody else sharing his views, because there are various figures who just cannot say what Zhirinovskiy says, but who think exactly the way he thinks. [sentence as heard] That is to say, Zhirinovskiy [word indistinct] their alter ego, and it would be naive to think that this issue will be removed. Although, here in Ukraine there is quite a serious [word indistinct] argument: The trilateral statement by the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and the United States concerning nuclear weapons in Ukraine and solution of this issue. Moreover, these states guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity and this argument will be quite instrumental, because the world today differs from what it was 30 or even 10 years ago. That is to say, all this will be under a rather serious international control.

This is why, on the one hand, I see that there will be enough difficulties: It is clear that both the internal political situation in Crimea and the political structures in Russia will undoubtedly encourage Crimea's drifting toward Russia. There must be no illusions here, as they say. However, the possibilities [word indistinct] available to Ukraine, I have in mind political possibilities first and foremost, as well as historic aspects, as they say, and all other aspects, as I am convinced they are much more complicated, and the situation in the world will help us straighten out the situation in Crimea gradually, [word indistinct] step by step. There will be no Yugoslav variant here. [end recording]

That was the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, Yevhen Marchuk, sharing his views about the situation in Crimea.

Advanced Military Aircraft Built in Ukraine

BR1703091294 Bonn DIE WELT in German 24 Feb 94 p 9

[Article by Ulrich Blumenschein: "Ukraine Builds Military Supertransporter: First Antonov-70 Manufactured—Range 5,000 Km—600-Meter Unsurfaced Takeoff Runway Sufficient"]

[Text] The former Soviet aviation industry is far from being dead, as became clear when a new aircraft unequaled in the West was presented recently at the Antonov aircraft works in Kiev, in the Ukraine. After all of 12 years' development, the four-engined An-70 transport plane has had its rollout, the ceremony, similar to the launch of a ship, that marks the beginning of the trial phase.

Neither the An-70's 500-km range nor its 35-tonne freight capacity is its most striking feature. What is sensational is its ability to take off, fully loaded, from an unsurfaced runway only 600 m long.

The An-70 is the latest in a long series of Antonov transport planes that includes the An-12 (NATO code: Cub), which for 30 years constituted the East Bloc armed forces' flying workhorse. In the seventies, the Soviet Air Force used to boast that its An-12 aircraft alone were sufficient to displace two entire armed divisions—14,000 men plus arms and equipment—in one go over a distance of 1,200 km.

The An-72 "Coaler," which put in a surprise appearance at the 1979 Paris air show, aroused particular interest. It was a curious-looking transport plane for short takeoff and landing runways with two jet engines mounted at the front of the wings. This unconventional configuration was designed to direct the exhaust plume over the upper surface of the wings, a technique that makes for a considerable increase in lift; the specialists refer to it as the "Coanda effect."

The new An-70 exploits the Coanda effect in a modified form. It is not a jet, but a turboprop. Four Progress turbines built at the Saporoshje Works are each driven by two counterrotating propellers with extremely broad, saber-shaped, curved blades. According to the engineering office, their airflow gives rise to a supercirculation phenomenon on the wings that doubles lift during takeoff and landing, shortening runway requirements accordingly.

The eight strange, 4.5-m diameter propellers, which look more like large marine screw propellers, give the airborne aircraft a speed only marginally lower than that of a fast jet transporter. The designers thus calculate that, at an altitude of 8,500 m, the An-70 will be capable of flying 30-percent faster than the American Hercules or the Bundeswehr's Transall, although it will be half as slow again in the critical takeoff and landing phases.

The An-70's hold measures 4 x 4 x 16 m, three times the capacity of the An-12 or Transall fuselage. The gigantic hold can accommodate practically any military vehicle or weapon system.

The An-70's system of digital on-board electronics meets western standards and is more advanced than that of the much-extolled MiG-29 supersonic fighter aircraft.

The Russian Air Force is very interested in the An-70, and the aircraft may well take on great importance as a freight plane in view of the shortcomings of the railway system in the CIS states.

The An-70, which western experts describe as technically brilliant, is scheduled to take off for its first test flight in April. What happens after that depends primarily on how relations between the Ukraine and Russia develop.

Belarus

'Spring-94' To Discuss Support for Shushkevich

WS1603192894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Unattributed report: "S. Shushkevich Officially Joins Association of Democratic Forces 'Spring-94'"]

[Text] According to BELAPAN, former Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich joined the Association of Democratic Forces "Spring-94" at an extended session of its Coordinating Council. The session adopted a decision to propose discussion on the issue of supporting the candidacy of Stanislav Shushkevich for the post of Belarusian president to its member-organizations .

'Spring-94' Denounces Controlled Media

WS1603201694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Unattributed report: "Coordinating Council of the Association of Democratic Forces 'Spring-94' Issues a Statement"]

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the Association of Democratic Forces "Spring-94" has issued a statement denouncing the stance of the Belarusian Government regarding the activities of the Belarusian mass media. "The prevailing majority of mass media are, as before, in the hands of the executive bodies," the statement reads. "Leaders of the government overtly declare that media which do not support the government will not be granted subsidies." The authors of the statement demand that space in newspapers and even broadcasting time be issued by the government to various parties and political associations to allow them the opportunity to clarify their platforms during the elections.

BNF Opposes Shushkevich Candidacy

WS1603162194 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Valer Kalinowski: "Belarusian Popular Front Will Not Support Shushkevich"]

[Text] On 12 March, the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] Council discussed the development of the political situation and prospects for elections in Belarus. As was pointed out by Zyanon Paznyak, the BNF does not aim to electioneer before the adoption of the constitution, as is being done by S. Shushkevich, M. Hryb, and A. Lukashenka during their numerous clamorous tours across the Republic. However as soon as the elections are announced, the BNF will definitely launch its electoral campaign. According to Y. Khadyka, the BNF has plans to reach a preelection agreement with other parties. The content of the agreement will depend on the concrete situation and will, at a maximum, envision support for one candidate or, at a minimum, joint control over observance of the law in the course of the elections. The BNF leadership believes that their organization has realistic chances for success. Yet, according to Z. Paznyak, this would happen only if the electorate faces a clear-cut dilemma of choosing between a man from the opposition and a representative of the old nomenklatura. A third candidate and a third way would be a threat. Zyanon Paznyak pointed out that Stanislav Shushkevich is the man specifically threatening BNF's future and added: "Someone either advocates independence or opposes it; there is no other option." In Paznyak's opinion, Shushkevich is the concrete politician responsible for what happened in Belarus.

Due to BNF support, Shushkevich became deputy chairman and then chairman of the Belarusian legislature. However in the end, he abandoned the BNF and chose his own path, tolerating the annulment of the referendum and the legalization of the Communist Party of Belarus. The BNF cannot forgive this. Thus, Paznyak pointed out, (and was supported by other council members), the Popular Front would no longer support Shushkevich and quite probably, would campaign against him. Shushkevich's aspiration to take part in presidential elections and his attempts to look for support from political parties and the electorate had evidently irritated the BNF. In Paznyak's opinion, "This situation causes confusion and discord in the democratic camp. Democrats will lose. When opportunists come to the fore, the nomenklatura will be victorious."

Nevertheless, the BNF faction believes that it is rather improbable that there will be several candidates for president. The draft law on presidential elections provides for the nomination of candidates by either 70 lawmakers or 100,000 electors. Alternative candidates will encounter enormous difficulties. However the BNF is not going to dodge them. Making use of its experience, the organization will begin collecting signatures, aware that a candidate nominated by the electorate will be in an advantageous position as compared to his opponent nominated by Supreme Soviet deputies. In the electoral campaign, the BNF intends to seek support from young people, workers, and intelligentsia. It also stresses the need to form veterans and pensioners organizations faithful to the idea of independence, and to appeal for women's support.

Constitution Envisions State Structural Change

LD1703122294 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 0834 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpt] It has already been reported that yesterday the Supreme Soviet of Belarus adopted the fundamental law of the Republic of Belarus. The main difference between the present Constitution and the one adopted in 1978 lies in the fact that it envisions a change in the state structure—Belarus becomes a presidential republic. According to the new constitution, the Republic of Belarus is declared to be: a unitary, democratic, social,

law-governed state. Man is considered the supreme value of society and the state. Belarus sets the aim of making its territory non-nuclear and the state neutral.

The president of the republic is the head of executive power. The parliament is reduced from 360 to 260 members. It remains semiprofessional, i.e. some of the deputies work on a professional basis in permanent commissions and the others combine their duties as MPs with other work.

The Constitution enters into effect from the moment of being published. One month after that the republic's Constitutional Court is to be set up. [passage omitted]

Full Russian Gas Supplies Resume; Payment Set

WS1503204494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Today, Belarus began to receive full gas deliveries from Russia. Gasprom resumed supplying its earlier volume of blue fuel to the Republic. By the end of Tuesday [15 March], deliveries are expected to reach earlier [word indistinct] volume of 54 million cubic meters. This was agreed by Russia's Gasprom and the Belarusian Beltransgas during their negotiations in Moscow.

A delegation of gas-industry specialists from Belarus, headed by Beltransgas Director Mikalay Macharnyak, went to Moscow for the sole purpose of discussing conditions for repaying Belarusian debts for Russian natural gas deliveries. In line with agreements reached with Ukraine's partners, 150 percent [as heard] of Belarusian debts for last year's deliveries will be settled by financial means while 50 percent will be met by supplying Russia's Gasprom with equipment and materiel. This year's debt will be settled by financial means. A repayment schedule for this quarter has already been agreed upon. An agreement in principle has also been reached on the joint ownership of property of the territory of Belarus, but the actual Russian ownership share will be determined at a later date. According to ITAR-TASS, it was determined that a final resolution of the questions under discussion will be adopted within the next 10 days.

Moldova

Snegur Signs Partnership for Peace

AU1603192394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] President Mircea Snegur has signed in Brussels the document on the Republic of Moldova's adherence to the Partnership for Peace [PFP] program.

As our press correspondent, Andrei Barsan, reported in his speech given after the signing of the framework document, NATO General Secretary Manfred Woerner emphasized that by joining the PFP concept, the Republic of Moldova demonstrates that it shares the main objective pursued by the Alliance: Building a European order of peace that is based on the principles of democracy and human rights.

Referring to problems in the east of Moldova, Manfred Woerner said that the Alliance supports a rapid and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from that area and hopes that a rapid peaceful solution may be found in connection with the said problems.

In turn, President Mircea Snegur said that, as a trustworthy partner, Moldova will strengthen its bilateral relations with Central and East European countries and will cooperate honestly with the Euro-Atlantic security structures in accordance with the PFP principles and objectives.

We pay special attention to the mechanism of consultations on security stipulated by the PFP, particularly when a participating state believes that it is facing a direct threat against its territorial integrity, political independence, and national security. This is all the more important since the said principles are questioned today by the presence of foreign troops on the territory of Moldova; something that represents the main obstacle for a definitive political solution to the conflict in the east of Moldova.

Comments on Joining

LD1603185794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, 16 Mar TASS—Moldova has become the 12th state to join the Partnership for Peace programme offered by NATO to former Soviet Republics and East European countries in January.

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur signed the appropriate agreement in NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Moldovan leader said that the Partnership for Peace programme would certainly help strengthen national security and territorial integrity of his country.

Snegur said he was ready to begin working out proposals to conclude a bilateral partnership agreement which would define the character and the extent of Moldovan cooperation with NATO.

Snegur also said the mechanism of consultations with NATO envisaged by the "Partnership for Peace" is very important for any country whose territorial integrity, political independence, and security are threatened.

The Moldovan president reiterated that the 14th Russian Army deployed on moldovan territory plays the

main stumbling effect for the political settlement of the conflict between Moldova and its eastern Dniester province.

According to Snegur, negotiations should be held on the terms of troops withdrawal. He expressed confidence that the new Moldovan parliament would adopt a law granting the Dniester province a special legal status to help the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said that NATO favours a prompt and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Moldova.

He also emphasised that in the proposed partnership scheme, the North Atlantic alliance does not want to exclude or isolate any country. NATO expects Russia to join the "Partnership for Peace" programme, Woerner stressed. The participation of all invited countries will play an important role in implementing our efforts to build a new Europe, he said.

Today, Moldova, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Czech Republic have joined the "Partnership for Peace" programme. Many leaders of these countries consider joining this programme as the first step towards full membership in NATO.

Russia has expressed its support for the programme, estimating it as a mechanism of strengthening security of coopration in Europe.

President Says Relations With Yeltsin 'Satisfactory'

BR1603162994 Brussels LE SOIR in French 16 Mar 94

[Interview with President Mircea Snegur by Pol Mathil; place and date not given: "Mircea Snegur On Moldova And Europe"]

[Text] [Mathil] How are we supposed to call your country: Moldavia or Moldova?

[Snegur] Moldova.

[Mathil] Why?

[Snegur] Because that is what our ancestors called it. It is the name of a river. Moldavia is more Russian.

[Mathil] Is your national anthem still the same as Romania's?

[Snegur] Yes. Soon we will have our own.

[Mathil] Despite your historical links with Romania, in which Moldova was one of the provinces between the two world wars, your citizens ruled out unification with Romania at the first pluralist elections held in late February. Why?

[Snegur] The links are clear. We speak the same language and we used to be part of Romania. However, the Moldovan conscience has never disappeared. It created for itself a geographical and demographic framework. Within this framework, the population is 65 percent Moldovan and 35 percent Ukrainian, Gagauz (Turkish-speaking orthodox), Bulgarian, etc. Today, all of this makes up a whole. During a recent national survey, 95 percent of the citizens said they supported independence.

[Mathil] Can this result be interpreted as a sign of Moldova's return to Russia?

[Snegur] I know that such an interpretation exists, but I am convinced that the Moldovan president and parliamentary majority will prove that it is a wrong interpretation.

[Mathil] It is claimed that you have yielded before the threat of a definitive secession of "the Russian-speaking Republic of Dnestr," where the Russian 14th Army is located, which alone is capable of imposing peace. Is the approach to Moscow the price of Russian mediation in this conflict?

[Snegur] Our relations with the democratic forces of Russia and President Yeltsin are completely satisfactory. Yeltsin himself has said on several occasions that he was in favor of a united Moldova. While we are fully aware that in Moscow there are currently forces that take a different turn than Yeltsin's, I hope that we will manage to maintain good relations. We therefore accept Russian mediation.

[Mathil] Do you also agree to having the Russian Army stay in Transdnestr?

[Snegur] No. The Army must be pulled out. Negotiations on this are currently being held.

[Mathil] Can your country be compared to Georgia, which has been torn apart by the secession of Abkhazia, where the Russian Army plays a similar role?

[Snegur] The situation is different. We managed to stop the conflict at the outset. The support of the population was greater, and so was the stability in the country.

[Mathil] Do you not think that your country, like Georgia or Tajikistan, is the target of Moscow's new doctrine toward regions which can be called "near neighbors?" Is this not an attempt to reconstruct a sort of "imperial" entity around Moscow?

[Snegur] There are obviously mutual interests, Russian interests in Moldova and Moldovan interests in Russia. It is normal after a long period of economic links and hypercentralization within the Soviet Union.

[Mathil] Solely economic links?

[Snegur] Yes. We are members of the CIS economic union, but not of its military structures.

[Mathil] Where do Russian ambitions end?

[Snegur] You should ask Moscow that question.

[Mathil] What do you think of Russian pressure, mostly in the energy sector, with regard to Ukraine, your large neighbor?

[Snegur] I would not like to comment on the relations between two sovereign states. On the energy front, Moldova is in a more favorable situation.

[Mathil] What do you think of the secessionist aspirations of Crimea?

[Snegur] I am categorically against any secession. The separatist evil must be stopped.

[Mathil] Are you afraid of Zhirinovskiy?

[Snegur] He should not be underestimated. Everyone from the former Soviet territory must be very vigilant and create the living conditions that prevent populism from taking root.

[Mathil] You and your government are former members of the old Communist Party. Moreover, the parties openly proclaiming their Communist heritage scored well in the recent elections. Is the reform program being threatened?

[Snegur] A return to Communism is neither possible nor acceptable. I am a reformer. The large majority of the new parliament was elected on a program of reform and privatization.

[Mathil] Starting Wednesday, Moldova will be the 12th central and eastern European country to have signed the Partnership for Peace. What do you expect from the West?

[Snegur] Help to enable us to restore both internal and external stability, and to help us find our place in Europe.

[Mathil] To join the Partnership, the Russians are asking for a "special status"...

[Snegur] I do not know about this issue of a "special status," but Russia is a major power.

[Mathil] Do you not think that Russia's current foreign policy reflects certain expansionist tendencies?

[Snegur] You are no doubt referring to certain peace missions to try and resolve conflicts in the old Soviet republics. Without Russia we could not find a solution to these conflicts.

Kazakhstan

Delegation Leaves for Working Visit to Russia

LD1603120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty March 16 TASS—Kazakhstan's state delegation headed by Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko set off on Wednesday for a working visit to Moscow. The visit aims to pave the way for the proposed Kazakh-Russian summit. Under an earlier agreeement, the delegation is scheduled to meet for talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and cabinet members to discuss a wide range of issues of mutual concern.

These issues can be grouped into four sets, which are of especial importance to further development of bilateral relations, a spokesman for the Kazakh prime minister reported. The two sides will consider military and military-technical cooperation, operation of the Baykonur space launching site, peaceful use of atomic energy, improvement of ties in the economic, scientific, cultural and law spheres. The same problems are to be discussed by Presidents Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan during their summit scheduled for late March.

Tershchenko Welcomes CIS Summit Postponement

LD1603161294 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Quotation marks are as received]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The postponement of the CIS summit to mid-April has been received with great satisfaction in Kazakhstan. This was the aim which its leadership, together with the Russian Federation, had hoped for during previous weeks.

Kazakhstani Prime Minister Tershchenko, in an exclusive interview to correspondents of ITAR-TASS and KAZTAG said: "This demarche is explained by a necessity for a much more thorough preparation for the Moscow summit. It certainly demands additional time and effort.

The decisions made last year at the Ashgabat summit instilled hope for development of integrational processes in the CIS, but in reality implementation of the agreements reached on creation of an economic union is extremely slow. The economic situation in practically all CIS countries continues to deteriorate. In order to prevent the negative processes from acquiring a scale of catastrophe, a dynamic breakthrough is currently needed more than ever before toward a qualitatively new state of affairs in all main guidelines of our cooperation."

"That is why, Tereshchenko goes on to say, we in Kazakhstan think it is extremely important to discuss a number of top priority issues at the forthcoming summit. First, issues concerning acceleration of the creation of a common customs space and zones of free trade. It is also necessary to take urgent measures to commission the interstate bank, which was set up over a year ago but is still inoperative. For this end, in our opinion, it is necessary to set up a payment center for settling payments through this bank and later to reorganize it into a currency union on the basis of introduction of a supranational currency. This way will once and forever overcome the crisis of payments and normalize payment and credit relations between the CIS states."

"It is also time to set up a coordination organ of the CIS in Moscow. Without it, and this has been already proven in practice, neither agreements nor any other enforceable enactments will work as they are, and the economic union will remain, as before, on paper. This organ can be called a committee, a council or any other name, but it should by all means accumulate in it the highest intellectual potential and relevant research centers, including the CIS statistical board."

The Prime minister said in conclusion: "I submitted these and other suggestions in mid-February to the head of the Russian Federation Government, Chernomyrdin, who is chairman of the Council of the CIS Heads of State. As far as I know, the Russian Federation and a number of other countries are currently actively elaborating and developing them. Thus, it is quite possible to expect that the forthcoming April summit will be a real milestone on our difficult, dramatic, tense and yet hopeful way to a real and prosperous economic union."

Talks Continue With Russia on Baykonur Site

LD1603133894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Russia and Kazakhstan are continuing their talks concerning the terms of leasing the launching site in Baykonur, and signing an agreement on military-technical cooperation.

A spokesman for the Russian Space Agency (RSA) told Interfax that a delegation led by the Kazakh Prime Minister, Sergey Tereshchenko, is arriving in Moscow on Wednesday with this aim in view.

According to the spokesman, "the delegation includes several groups of experts, each specializing in definite area of bilateral cooperation."

The talks in Moscow pose a third round of bilateral endeavors to work out documents to be signed by the presidents of the two countries in late March.

"This time the Kazakh delegation inclines to conclude the process of talks, and prepare all the documents for being signed, even if it has to stay in Moscow till the end of this month."

Nazarbayev Assigns Kolkhoz Property to Directors

PM1603165794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Tleuzhan Esilbayev: "Directors Will Become Property Owners by Edict"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has signed an edict "On the Transfer of Part of Sovkhoz Property to the Ownership of the Directors." On the basis of the document in question, a director, having worked for 20 years in this position, will be allocated 10 percent of the redeemable part [vykupnaya chast] of property belonging to a state agricultural enterprise on a noncompensatory basis. Moreover, he will be given a further 10 percent (the state share) of the redeemable part of the property for temporary usage for a period of no more than five years.

Azerbaijan

Moscow Representative Urges Expansion of Ties

PM1603174194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Ramiz Rizayev, plenipotentiary representative in Russia, by Ilgar Gurbanov; place and date not given: "We Will Strengthen Relations with Russia"]

[Text] [Gurbanov] Ramiz Gasanovich, how do you rate the present sociopolitical situation in Azerbaijan?

[Rizayev] It is considerably more calm and stable in our republic today than it was a year ago, let us say. Naturally, the war which Armenia has now been waging against Azerbaijan for approximately six years has been and still is the chief barometer here. It must be emphasized that it is precisely Armenia that is fighting, not the mythical "Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces." Where has Karabakh's present tiny Armenian community gotten this tremendous military might, these tanks, missiles, and aircraft? Where has it gotten the fuel that powers the death-dealing war machines? The economic damage to the republic resulting from this war exceeds U.S.$4 billion. Today there are 1,000,200 [figure as published] refugees in Azerbaijan; the lot of these people who have been forced to leave their homes in order to escape annihilation is terrible. Old men, women, and children perish and die every day from cold, hunger, and disease. Ravaged by war, Azerbaijan cannot cope with this disaster, and the humanitarian aid, for which we are grateful to everyone who gives it, provides only poor support.

[Gurbanov] What can you say about the role of intermediaries in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict? For example, about Russia's mediation mission....

[Rizayev] We are grateful for any peacemaking efforts which might help to end the bloodshed, which neither the Azeris nor, I am sure, the Armenian people want. As for Russia's role in a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, it must proceed from the premise that Russia's geopolitical and economic interests require stability on its southern borders. Approximately half a million Russians live in Azerbaijan, and they regard our republic as their homeland and share the burdens of the war equally with everyone. We therefore consider Russia's active participation and that country's objective position as very important factors in resolving this complex problem. Russia is taking peacemaking steps, and the activity of Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian Federation president's special ambassador in the conflict zone, deserves particular mention.

We joined the CIS and signed the Collective Security Treaty, and we believe that this treaty must produce a considerably greater return than hitherto, because it is absurd when one CIS member, Armenia, wages an aggressive war against another, Azerbaijan. We also want more active participation by the United Nations, the CSCE, the Security Council, and, of course, Russia and other countries in resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

[Gurbanov] After everything that has happened, do we have any chance of hope in the "all-Caucasian home"...?

[Rizayev] This idea has arisen before in history. It still sounds only a fine metaphor, a dream. What question can there be of a common home when, alas, there is still no peace and accord in it? Let us first stop the bloodshed.

[Gurbanov] Mr. Ambassador, how does Azerbaijan perceive the cadre reshuffles in the Russian Government?

[Rizayev] We do not interfere in Russia's internal affairs. Naturally, we welcome the policy of democratic transformations in Russia. Russians are pinning their hopes on it, and we sincerely sympathize with them at this difficult time. One of the most important elements is the fact that the internal political situation in Russia largely determines the overall political and economic climate in the Commonwealth.

[Gurbanov] Is the need felt in the republic to adopt a statute on dual citizenship? Please tell me about the position of Russians and the Russian-speaking population in Azerbaijan, and also about the position of Azeris in Russia....

[Rizayev] In Azerbaijan, as in other republics of the former USSR, the problem of dual citizenship is being discussed and constructive ideas about it are being accumulated. As regards Russian-speakers, here I would like to emphasize the following. The first Russian settlement in Azerbaijan appeared back in the time of Patriarch Nikon of Rus, at the end of the 17th century. Azerbaijan is their motherland. The good relations between Russians and Azeris have stood the test of time. The Slavs' Culture Center and the "Sodruzhestvo," "Azerbaijan-Russia," and "Russkaya Obshchina" societies are now operating in Baku. Newspapers and television and radio programs are put out in Russian, Russian schools and theaters are functioning....

The war brings suffering not only to Azeris. Baku is gasping for breath and is unable to accommodate refugees from the territories occupied by the Armenian armed forces. There have been instances of unauthorized takeovers of both Azeris' and Russians' apartments, but the situation is being strictly monitored and obstacles are being placed in the way of lawlessness. I would like to speak about one other thing here. During very difficult times for Azerbaijan, particularly after the January 1990 bloodshed in Baku, part of the Russian-speaking population left the republic. But we are very glad that the majority of them have come back.

As regards the second part of your question, there are fellow countrymen of ours who have been living in Russia for long years and who have made a tremendous contribution to Russia's culture and economy. It is possible to name Aydyn Imamaliyev, Russia's chief

trauma expert, and the artist Tair Salakhov. USSR People's Artiste Muslim Magomayev lives in Moscow; General K. Kerimov, who stood at the cradle of Soviet cosmonautics and was involved in the development of some highly interesting space projects, recently retired on pension. The list of such examples could be long.

But there is, unfortunately, something else. It so happens that Azeris are also involved in so-called mafia altercations. There is a lot of talk about the presence of Azeris at markets, about their behavior.... Here it is necessary to be able to separate the wheat from the chaff. When, for example, a Russian guy from Ryazan stands and sells meat at an exorbitant price, this seems not to be noticed. When "persons of Caucasian nationality" sell tomatoes, let us assume, for 1,000 rubles too much, from the Russians' viewpoint, indignation at once erupts. And yet the struggle must be waged not along ethnic lines, so to speak, but against the phenomenon of speculation, corruption, etc. Take the campaign mounted against Caucasians after the October events in Moscow—very many offenses occurred. At any rate, we proceed from the premise that Azeris have no right, while living on Russian territory, to show disrespect for Russian laws, customs, and traditions or to forget about their national responsibility, because we represent our people far from our motherland. As regards criminal elements, all the severity of the law must be applied to them.

[Gurbanov] What do you think about the prospects for Azerbaijan's relations with Russia?

[Rizayev] Here we cannot manage without talking about the problems of the CIS. As is known, the Commonwealth emerged from the ruins of the Union, which was destroyed at a speed and with consequences which were disastrous for the peoples who populated it. Ties—above all, economic ties which had just about "worked" for 70 years—were severed overnight. All the burdens of such ultraradical, supposedly democratic "renewal" were also felt in full by the people of Azerbaijan. Let us take just one sector—petroleum machine building. During the thousand-times cursed "era of stagnation" Azerbaijan produced approximately 80 percent of all the Union's oil-field and drilling equipment. After its breakup this indicator fell sharply—which hit hard at oil extraction in Russia and, in the final analysis, also at the prosperity of Russians and the population of Azerbaijan. Today Azerbaijan's normal contacts with Russia are hampered by customs barriers and robbery on the railroads. This cannot be tolerated.

The policy pursued by the republic's former leaders virtually brought Azerbaijan to self-isolation—isolation from many other countries, including Russia. We are now endeavoring to rectify this situation and have already largely done so. We are pursuing a policy of strengthening and expanding ties with Russia.

I am sure that both the Russian people and the Azeri people need this.

Aliyev, World Bank Official Hold Meeting on Aid

NC1603210294 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev received Mr. Russell (Cheetham), director of the World Bank's Europe and Asia Department, who is on an official visit to Azerbaijan. The guest will hold talks with the republic's leaders and representatives of several organizations during his visit. The objective of his visit is to familiarize himself with the present situation in Azerbaijan and discuss the World Bank's draft proposals on aid to the Republic.

President Aliyev warmly greeted his guest and informed him that he welcomes his visit. Aliyev stressed that he highly appreciates the World Bank's effort to cooperate with Azerbaijan and the steps it has taken in that direction.

Mr. Russell (Cheetham) said that the World Bank plans to invest in many economic areas in Azerbaijan. President Aliyev informed the guest that the problems he mentioned are vitally important. He asserted: Of course, Azerbaijan also has other problems. Under the existing conditions, we greatly need the World Bank's aid. The World Bank may rest assured that capital investments in Azerbaijan will be [word indistinct] for the future.

Mr. Russell (Cheetham) recalled that the World Bank has established relations with the former USSR republics during the past two or three years and stressed that it can also share its experience with Azerbaijan.

Party Leader Comments on Results of U.S. Visit

NC1603194794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Etibar Mamedov, leader of the Azerbaijani National Independence Party, held a news conference today for the Azerbaijani and foreign reporters.

[Unidentified reporter] Etibar Mamedov said that the news conference was devoted to the results of his visit to the United States. Speaking of his visit to the United States, Etibar Mamedov said that he had received an invitation last year to visit that country, but it was not until this year that the visit became possible.

He said that during his contacts at Congress, the State Department, and the Institute for International Strategic Studies his delegation met high-ranking officials and discussed a number of issues. He said his meetings with the U.S. National Security Council official responsible for Russia, the Caucasus, and Asia, as well as the active members of the Armenian lobby were particularly important.

He said that following his contacts he came to the conclusion that the Americans were not well informed about Azerbaijan and developments here, and that this situation was mostly due to the influence of the Armenian lobby in the United States. The Armenian lobby is

organized and financed by Armenians living in the United States. Regrettably, one cannot say the same for the Azerbaijanis. Besides, there was no factual information on the occupation of Azerbaijani territory and the tens of thousands of refugees.

Speaking of the sociopolitical situation in the republic, Etibar Mamedov referred particularly to the latest discovery of illegally-held arms and to the discovery of a considerable amount of arms at the headquarters of the Azerbaijani People's Front.

He also expressed his views on the results of the meeting between the leaders of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments on the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

At the end of the press conference, Etibar Mamedov also replied to reporters' questions.

Energy Cuts Reduce TV Hours, End Tehran Program

NC1603173394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we bring the following information to your attention: The duration of programs of Azerbaijani National Television is being reduced because of the energy shortage in our Republic. For that reason, National Television has been signing on at 1000, instead of 0900, since 14 March. We will suspend the broadcast of the Azeri program by Tehran Television on 16 March. Further reductions in our programs are expected in the next few days.

Georgia

Shevardnadze: Four UN States To Send Troops

LD1603175494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1603 GMT 16 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze stated that four UN member-states had agreed to send their troops to Abkhazia on a UN peacekeeping mission. He did not tell the Georgian parliament which particular countries were meant, but noted that their number might increase.

He told Interfax that the Georgian parliament's decision to dismiss the Abkhazian parliament was somewhat hasty and not quite justified from the tactical point of view. "However, in principle, it does not contradict the political context of the situation," he said. IF Note: The Georgian parliament ruled that pending parliamentary elections in Abkhazia the functions of the Abkhazian parliament will be performed by the Abkhazian Council of Ministers which will be granted the status of a temporarily evacuated body. The resolution also says that all the laws, adopted by the Abkhazian separatists, shall be considered invalid.

Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba told Interfax that the talks on settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict would not be continued until the Georgian parliament annulled its resolution. He also said that the peace-making process was interrupted through Georgia's fault.

On Tuesday, the Abkhazian parliament circulated a statement which says that no further talks would be held on peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The Georgian parliament's decision to dismiss the Abkhazian parliament and to put the Abkhazian deputies on trial "illustrates that Georgia has put the stake on military solution again," says this document.

The Abkhazian parliament qualified the Georgian parliment's revolution as illegal, because Abkhazia, it said, is an independent state, not part of Georgia.

The statement also says that if the Georgian parliament reviewed its decision, the parliament of Abkhazia would continue the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Russia's Foreign Ministry expressed concern about this situation and about a real threat of armed clashes.

To quote Grigoriy Karasin, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Information and the Press, "Georgian-Abkhazian relations have deteriorated, producing a real threat of an armed conflict." At the final stage of the talks in New York, Georgia openly threatened to step back onto the path of war if Abkhazia did not unconditionally recognize Georgia's territorial integrity and agree to accept all Georgian refugees," he said.

He announced that Russia was making urgent steps to prevent armed clashes in Abkhazia and interruption of the talks. "It will also support UN or UN-apporved peacekeeping operations in Abkhazia, based, if necessary, on a Russian military contingent," said Karasin.

Advadze on Abkhazia, Shevardnadze Visit to UN

NC1603171294 Yerevan SNARK in English 0916 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 16 (SNARK)—"Georgia will never say "yes" to the Abkhazia's separation from Georgia. Abkhazians won the war, but it's the temporary victory", Valerian Advadze, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to Russia, told yesterday March 15 at his press-conference in Moscow.

According to Valerian Advadze, the danger of separatism exists not only for Georgia but also for the other countries of the world. "The separatism in Abkhazia should be curbed, otherwise it will bring to civil wars".

So, the Russian Federation should support Georgia otherwise Russia will solve the same problems.

Mr. Advadze considers the visit of the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to the UN "very successful". The main aim of the visit was to convince world community of the necessity to introduce the peace-making forces into the zone of the conflict, to get the economical aid and political support of the Shevardnadze's course.

[Yerevan SNARK in English at 0916 in a similarly datelined report adds: "Abkhazia is the land of Georgia. It's necessary to recognize Abkhazia as a part of the Georgian state to prevent the possible bloodshed, Valerian Advadze, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to Russia, told in his exclusive interview to SNARK.

["According to Mr. Ambassador, Abkhazia is guilty in torpedoing peace negotiations as she doesn't recognize the territorial integrity of Georgia.

[" 'World speaks for Georgia and the Shevardnadze's visit to the UN confirms such attitude. There doesn't exist any state which recognizes the independence of Abkhazia. Abkhazians speak against the will of the whole world community', Mr. Advadze said."]

Ardzinba on 'Adventurer' Shevardnadze's 'Lies'

PM1603152194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Kozhanov: "Vladislav Ardzinba's Press Conference: Abkhazia Will Not Yield to Coercion"]

[Text] Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba's meeting with the press yesterday was awaited with particular interest. Questions about how the Abkhaz leader evaluates the decree adopted a few days ago by the Georgian parliament on the dissolution of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, and the extent to which this action will reflect on the progress of already difficult talks on a peaceful settlement to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, became the focus of attention immediately.

In this connection V. Ardzinba read out a statement from the republic Supreme Soviet conclusively emphasizing the total political and legal bankruptcy of the Georgian parliament's action. Sukhumi believes, moreover, that this action is a blatant provocation aimed at sabotaging the talks and returning to attempts at a forcible solution to the conflict. How else can it be interpreted, if the decree adopted in Tbilisi not only abolishes the parliament of a sovereign state but also provides for the criminal prosecution of the parliamentarians themselves? With just whom exactly does the Georgian side intend to continue talks after this? With an "abolished" authority? With "the defendants"?

And you know, the quest for a peaceful solution, which has been going on since last November, was close to success. As a result of three rounds of talks conducted under the UN aegis in Geneva and New York the sides had in point of fact reached agreement both on stationing peacemaking forces on the Inguri river and on restoring interstate relations. Nor did the Abkhaz side object to the return of Georgian refugees, with the exception of those who had participated directly in military operations against Abkhazia and carried out military and criminal acts on its territory.

It is not impossible that it was the close prospect of a peaceful solution that alarmed the Georgian authorities. After all, legal documents can hinder aggression. In this connection V. Ardzinba sharply criticized Shevardnadze's efforts to turn world public opinion against Abkhazia and his statements during a U.S. visit maliciously distorting the facts. Take, for instance, the blatant lies about genocide in the republic and about the number of Georgian refugees. Shevardnadze brazenly cited the figure of 300,000 as the number of Georgians who had allegedly fled from Abkhazia and repression at a time when the total number of Georgian inhabitants on the republic's territory never exceeded 220,000-240,000 people, a significant proportion of whom, incidentally, remain in the country even today. All the actions of Shevardnadze, who came to power as a result of a forcible coup, the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet chairman noted, bear the hallmarks of an international political adventurer. He already sees NATO "peacemaking" forces on the southern Russian border along the Psou river, with himself under their cover as the full-fledged master on Abkhaz soil. But adventures, as we know, end in failure sooner or later. The people of Abkhazia will never yield to coercion. They seek peace and tranquility, they thirst for a speedier revival of their war-torn and occupied country, and they are entitled to expect world understanding and support in this.

Opposes Introduction of UN Troops

NC1603152194 Yerevan SNARK in English 0916 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 16 (SNARK)—Shevardnadze is doing his best to use the UN peace-making forces to abolish the legislative authorities of Abkhazia, the Abkhazian [Supreme Soviet] Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba told the journalists at his press-conference March 15 in Moscow.

According to Mr. Chairman, the Abkhazian side is against the UN forces introduction into the territory of Abkhazia and offers to distribute the troops at the Georgian-Abkhazian border—along the Ingury River.

Estonia

Russian Negotiator Views Resumption of Talks

WS1603201394 Tallinn ETA in English 1723 GMT 16 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 16—Inter-state negotiations between Estonia and Russia have not been broken off at all, head of the Russian delegation Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin told ETA, on Wednesday [16 March], adding that it was "strange to hear that they were broken and now will resume."

During the last round of negotiations on March 1-2 at Lohusalu resort near Tallinn, Russia withdraw its earlier commitment to pull out its forces by August 31, 1994 and neglected to offer another date for negotiations. Yesterday the Foreign Ministry of Estonia announced that Estonia had accepted Russia's offer to resume negotiations despite "numerous and often vague statements from the Russian part on breaking off the negotiations".

Svirin said that at the last round of negotiations "new, unexpected moments came up" and the Russian side had to think the situation over" to work out their position. [quotation marks as received]

The next round will be held in Moscow on April 5-6.

Commenting on the possible Estonian-Russian summit, Svirin said that it was extremely important, but declined to enlarge on the topic, saying only that it had to be prepared very thoroughly in order it to be "epochal" in the difficult relations between Estonia and Russia.

Premier Aho Gives News Conference, Ends Visit

WS1603201294 Tallinn ETA in English 1810 GMT 16 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 16—Good relations with Russia cannot in any way have unfavourable influence on Finland's relations with Estonia, Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho told a press conference ending his two-day visit to Estonia, on Wednesday [16 March], stressing that there existed no political problems between Estonia and Finland.

Aho stated that although Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia was primarily the matter of these two states it also concerned all other states of the region.

During his stay, Aho visited besides Tallinn also Tartu and Narva. Aho said that Finnish companies would participate at solving the environment problems of the Narva Power Plant, for these problems cause problems for all Baltic Sea states. He said also that after meeting the leaders of the Russian-speaking border-town Narva, he got an impression that there have not been any acute national problems in the region lately.

NATO Official Assesses Trip at News Conference

WS1603172594 Tallinn BNS in English 1343 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 16, BNS—Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent expects much from NATO's Partnership for Peace Program, which also Estonia has joined.

"I'm convinced that Estonia's and other East European countries' joining the program helps develop international political and economic relations and safeguards peace and security in Europe as a whole," Vincent said at a press conference in Tallinn today.

Commenting on Russia's bid to join the Partnership for Peace program, Vincent said it "can be regarded in a serious light."

"Some people are worried about NATO's possible cooperation with Russia and ask if this means a new Yalta agreement. I don't see it this way. Any nation that observes democratic principles and abides by the resolutions of international organizations is eligible for membership in the Partnership for Peace program," Vincent said. "I'm certain that this cooperation helps to make Europe a safer place."

Vincent didn't consider it likely that Russia would become a full member of NATO any time soon. "Joining NATO is not the same as joining the local tennis club," he said. "A new member will have to commit itself to certain very definite principles and rules that all NATO members recognize."

Vincent met yesterday and today with Maj. Gen. Aleksander Einseln, commander of the Estonian Defense Forces, Defense Minister Indrek Kannik, members of the parliamentary National Defense Commission, Foreign Ministry Chancellor Indrek Tarand, and Norwegian Ambassador to Estonia Brit Lovseth.

The NATO Military Committee chairman told BNS at the press conference the meetings brought to his attention Estonia's expectations with regard to the Partnership for Peace program and gave him a survey of the country's defense forces, of the plans for the Baltic peacekeeping battalion and the course of Russian troop withdrawal. Other topics touched upon in the meetings included the relations between military and civilian authorities in a democratic society and relevant legislation, as well as the attitude toward NATO of the Estonian public at large.

Einseln told the press "the field marshal brought good news to Estonia."

"Our cooperation with NATO has proceeded beyond talks," he said. "Soon we shall appoint an officer as Estonia's permanent representative at NATO."

Vincent is the first officer of so high a rank to visit Estonia.

"My first visit to your country gave me a better understanding of the changes taking place here," he said. "I kept myself informed of your struggles even before, also during World War II. I was five when the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was concluded and able to understand some things."

Vincent is accompanied by his wife, Jean, and five officers.

Preparations for Dismantling Reactor Begin

LD1603180194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Colonel Raul Luks, the commandant of Paldiski, has confirmed to the Estonian Telegraph Agency that everything is ready for the dismantlement of the nuclear reactor at the Paldiski training center. Estonian and Russian specialists met at Paldiski today to discuss cooperation for the period of the dismantlement. Luks said that they agreed about joint activity, the collection of initial information, and ways of cooperation. Luks could not answer a question on when the actual dismantlement of the reactor will begin. [passage omitted]

MP Views Russian Community Council's Statement

WS1603122594 Tallinn BNS in English 0825 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 15, BNS—The Council of the Russian Community in Estonia sent to the parliament chairman the text of a Declaration on Compatriots' Rights, which may be interpreted as a veiled threat, Kalle Kulbok, chairman of the parliamentary royalist faction, told BNS.

In a letter addressed to parliament Speaker Ulo Nugis, the Council of the Russian Community put forward suggestions concerning the repatriation of ethnic Russians. The letter, signed by Yuri Kotenkov, included the text of the Declaration on Compatriots' Rights adopted Jan. 29 at the second world congress of Russian communities.

The declaration defines as "compatriots" all persons who permanently resided on the territory of the Soviet Union and held Soviet citizenship, if they regard Russian as their mother tongue. "Compatriots" have the inalienable right to a united fatherland.

The declaration regards as fatherland "the territory that is inherent in the statehood of the Russian nation and that legitimately belonged to the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, including changes of border effected in accordance with the Constitutions of those states." The document maintains that compatriots cannot be declared to be aliens in any part of the territory; that neither collective nor individual deportation, or other similar measures, may be applied to them; and that compatriots cannot be declared to be stateless persons.

The congress of the Russian communities plans to set up a commission on compatriots' rights to check on observance of the declaration. The commission is authorized, among other things, to draw up lists of "officials, organizations and individuals responsible for acts committed against compatriots or Russian communities."

Kulbok said Royalists plan tomorrow to ask the interior minister for an explanation as to "how many persons there are in Estonia who disseminate this declaration and what's to become of Kotenkov who sent the declaration to the parliament."

Easier Emigration Rules Sought

WS1603172494 Tallinn BNS in English 1343 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 16, BNS—The Russian Community in Estonia proposed that the parliament pass some regulations to make leaving Estonia easier for those non-Estonians who have decided to resettle in the other former Soviet republics.

In a letter to parliament Speaker Ulo Nugis, the Council of the Russian Community suggests that persons registered with the Citizenship and Migration Department as resettlers be allowed to privatize their apartments without delay and either sell them freely or mortgage them to raise funds.

The council also proposes that one member of a repatriating family be allowed to cross the border freely and free of charge either during a five-year period or until the family completes building housing and resettling.

The problems involved in privatizing and selling their apartments and the lack of documents necessary for the unavoidable trips abroad in connection with repatriation are at present the major stumbling blocks for the non-Estonians who want to leave Estonia.

Latvia

Police Defuses Bomb Near Skrunda Radar Station

LD1603141994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The ink on the agreements initialled by the Latvian and Russian delegations had not dried yet in Moscow, when the relevant departments here in Latvia had cause to be alarmed. Another provocation was averted near Skrunda.

The executive of the Latvian National Independence Movement [LNNK] expressed its opinion on this today in a statement for the press. Mirdza Vitola reports on the statement.

[Vitola] The package of interstate agreements initialled at the talks between the Latvian and Russian delegations—which provides guarantees for the military personnel of the Russian occupation army, who were discharged before 28 January 1992, to stay in Latvia and which offers the possibility of aspiring for citizenship, as well as provides for the keeping of the Skrunda radar station in Latvia for five and one half years—means securing the legal status of the Latvian occupation and of its consequences.

The government delegation has acted against the interests of Latvian citizens and of their unequivocally expressed will. The treaty has been drafted in secrecy, without familiarizing the public with its conditions. The LNNK categorically demands the immediate publication of the full texts of all the agreements in the press and considers that the action by the government and its delegation should be qualified as an act of betrayal of the state interests of the Republic of Latvia.

First, the LNNK calls on the president of the Republic of Latvia not to sign agreements with Russia. Second, it calls

on all Saeima deputies who are able to realize the tragic and fatal meaning of these agreements for the future of the Latvian state and people, not to ratify it. Third, it calls on all Latvian citizens and political forces who feel responsible for Latvia's future and independence to become involved in protest actions with the aim of stopping the ratification of these agreements. [passage omitted]

[Studio announcer] And now some details about the incident itself. Yesterday evening, the Kuldiga district police defused an explosive device which had been placed by the concrete base of a pylon carrying a high-tension power supply line approximately 1 kilometer from the check point of the Skrunda radar station. This information has been supplied to the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE by Ilgonis Heinackis, head of the Kuldiga district police department.

The Latvian Interior Ministry Press Center reports that the device was made up of approximately 12 kilograms of TNT—in 200- gram briquettes and divided into two batches—an electrical detonator, wires, a timing device, and a battery.

The district police was informed about the explosive device by a resident of Ranki rural district. The command of the Russian army unit stationed at Skrunda refused to take part in defusing the device.

Three Pacts in Withdrawal Package Initialed

WS1603122394 Tallinn BNS in English 0825 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, Mar 15, BNS—Latvia and Russia completed the latest round of withdrawal talks Tuesday [15 March] in Moscow by initialing agreements on troop withdrawal, social protection of the withdrawing troops and social guarantees for retired military persons in the Baltic country.

Under the basic withdrawal treaty, Russia must get its remaining troops out by Aug. 31.

The agreement on the social protection of military pensioners refers to those who permanently lived in Latvia by January, 1992, when Russia transferred the Soviet Army in the Baltics to its own jurisdiction.

The retired military persons are naturalized as Latvian citizens in compliance with the Latvian law.

The war pensioners are granted the status of permanent residents and the property use rights.

The delegations also coordinated several paragraphs in the agreement on the Russian radar at Skrunda, Latvia.

Firstly, Latvia lets Russia operate the radar station for four years and then dismantle it in 18 months.

Secondly, Latvia allows Russia to keep 500 military persons and 200 civil persons to service the installation. The Latvians themselves will perform the outer guarding of the station.

Thirdly, the delegations decided that the early-warning anti-missile radar is "a Russian military installation under civil control." Consequently, Skrunda won't be considered a Russian military base.

The parties still disagree on the amount of rent for the radar's functioning. Russia's offer of 2 million USD per year does not satisfy Latvia.

Russia has said it wants to sign the entire package of documents simultaneously.

The conclusive summit of the presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Guntis Ulmanis, could take place already in the beginning of April, chief Russian delegate Sergei Zotov told reporters today.

The completed round of talks was already the 13th since the beginning of interstate consultations in 1992, the Interfax news agency reported Monday.

According to estimates, around 12,000 Russian military persons are still stationed in Latvia and another 3,000 in the Baltic country of Estonia. Lithuania has completely parted with the former Soviet Army.

Party Officials on Draft Agreement With Russia

WS1603210694 Tallinn BNS in English 1942 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 16, BNS—The Latvian parliament's Latvia's Way faction maintains that Russia will be bind to stick to Aug. 31 as the troop pullout deadline after the initialing of draft agreements, its Deputy Chairman Indulis Berzins told BNS Wednesday [16 March].

The faction won't take any decisions on the ratification of the draft agreement before all deputies acquaint themselves with the text of the documents, Berzins said.

The ratification of the agreements depends on whether President Guntis Ulmanis will sign them and on the course of events in Russia, Berzins noted.

Concord for Latvia's Edvins Kide said his faction favored the agreements because "if there is no agreement there is no instrument to press on Russia if it does not withdraw its troops."

The Homeland and Freedom faction, however, claims that the government delegation violated the law on ratification of interstate agreements, faction head Maris Grinblats told reporters.

The faction proposes to organize a public opinion poll May 29 on the functioning of the former Soviet radar installation at Skrunda. The date coincides with the local government elections.

The poll should include only one question: "Do you agree to the functioning of the Skrunda radar after Aug. 31?"

The factions of the Farmers Union, the Democratic Party and the Christian Democratic Union Party have not discussed the withdrawal agreement yet.

More on Diplomatic Protest Over Remarks

WS1603165494 Riga DIENA in Latvian 9 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "Latvia Submits a Note to the United States"]

[Text] Riga, 8 Mar—On Monday [7 March], Latvian Ambassador to the United States Ojars Kalnins submitted

a note from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the U.S. Department of State, with the aim of obtaining an explanation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement before a Senate subcommittee on 2 March regarding Latvia. This was reported by the press center of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed its incomprehension of W. Christopher's statement that "there are about one million Russians in Latvia who are deprived of voting rights," because, in fact, 278,087 out of 722,468 Russians residing in Latvia are citizens of the Latvian Republic.

The chief U.S. diplomat pointed out twice that the presence of the Russian Army at the Skrunda radar base is essential.

The note states that W. Christopher has accepted Russia's rights "to stimulate the Latvians to broaden their circle of citizens and to grant voting rights to Russians who want to live in Latvia." The Latvian Foreign Affairs Ministry is alarmed that Russia might interpret these remarks as acceptance of Russian attempts to dictate Latvian citizenship and naturalization policy. In the end, the note says that Christopher's remarks, unless they are explained, can be tendentiously distorted in Latvia as well as in Russia, and this could seriously interfere with the efforts of the Latvian Government to resolve important issues related to citizenship, Russian military withdrawal, and the status of the Skrunda radar station.

The note expresses amazement over the fact that the U.S. secretary of state did not mention any of the progress which has been achieved in Latvia in working out a citizenship law in line with international standards, as well as the fact that one third of ethnic Russians in Latvia are already Latvian citizens. The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has proposed a meeting of diplomats from both countries.

Russia's Acceptance of 'Partnership' Urged

WS1603193494 Tallinn BNS in English 1639 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 16, BNS—Latvia has to reconcile itself with the anticipated participation of Russia in the NATO's Partnership for Peace program which is designed for all East European countries, MP Indulis Berzins told BNS Wednesday [16 March].

Latvia will continue its path to the full integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization because it is the only organization capable of extending security guarantees in the conditions of foreign jeopardy, Berzins said.

NATO extension rests with NATO itself, Berzins noted.

Berzins is deputy head of the majority Latvia's Way faction and member of the parliament's Foreign Affairs' Committee.

Lithuania

Next Round of Talks With Russia Set for 21-22 Mar

LD1603132194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Virgilijus Bulovas, the head of Lithuania's working group at the talks with CIS countries, has confirmed to Interfax that the next round of talks between Russia and Lithuania will take place in Moscow on 21-22 March. Despite the fact that the previous meeting of the delegations was held in September 1993, Bulovas said that the Russian-Lithuanian negotiations were going well. The sides agreed that the main volume of work was to be done at a level of groups of experts. Bulovas said that the list of issues that were to be discussed at the new round of talks was not yet finalized. However, he believes that the discussion is likely to focus on border crossing and travel from one state to another. These problems were discussed at last week's meeting of groups of experts.

KGB Said Involved in Creating Two Companies

WS1703093394 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 9 Mar 94 No. 46 p 2

[Report by Aldona Svirbutaviciute: "Investigator for Special Cases—Against the Wind?"]

[Text] Yesterday, K. Milkeraitis, investigator for particularly important cases at the Prosecutor General's Office Investigating Department, made a public statement in the Seimas [parliament].

The essence of his statement state hindrances in investigating the criminal case on the appropriation of state property and the activities of foreign special services. The key reason that forced investigator K. Milkeraitis to appeal to the public was the attempt to impair the investigation and help the culprits evade criminal responsibility.

According to the investigator, the collected material leaves no doubt that the companies "Litcommerz GmbH" (Commercial Director A. Klimaitis [accused of working for the KGB]) and "Baltica-Union" (President A. Bakaitis) were set up with the aim of appropriating state property.

"Both economic entities were organized by the Soviet KGB, while transforming them into commercial enterprises. Employees of this foreign special service came to work under their cover enjoying the status of the 'active reserve'," reads K. Milkeraitis' statement.

According to Seimas Deputy A. Endriukaitis, the fact that the case may disclose the interests of the ruling [Labor Democratic] party is responsible for attempts to discontinue it.

K. Milkeraitis held a press conference because on 8 March he had to pass this case over to the leadership of the Prosecutor General's Office together with documentation and even material evidence. What if the latter does not exist?

Asked by TIESA whether he had pondered over his future as a prosecutor for special cases after this press conference, K. Milkeraitis replied: "I have not thought about my future. Today, I must submit the case, composed of 15 files, with all evidence to the leadership. The investigation is still continuing. True, it was suspended during my illness. It has been resumed but only until a fixed date."

According to the investigator, the term "political and criminal" would be too mild for this case.